

BLACK DIAMOND
WESTERN



10¢



BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN

FEB.
NO. 54

LEV GLEASON, Editor and Publisher





WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

Thousands Sold at this LOW PRICE!

LIFETIME CHRONOGRAPH STOPWATCH—WINDOW CALENDAR WRIST-WATCH PRECISION JEWEL

Came with Handsome
Matching Expansion Band
AT NO EXTRA COST!
WEAR AND ENJOY
This Watch on

DATE
CHANGES
EVERY
DAY
*Auto-
matically*

10-DAY FREE TRIAL!

This Swiss-Precision Watch is Also a

- **TACHOMETER:** Measures speeds of moving objects.
- **TELEMETER:** Measures distance between points.
- and
- **12 HOUR RECORDER**

**It's Also
ANTI-MAGNETIC**



Check These Features!

THESE HIGH PRICE FEATURES USUALLY
OFFERED IN WATCHES SELLING AT \$50.00 or MORE

- Precision Made, Impaired Swiss Jeweled Movement.
- 2-Push Buttons for "Stop" and "Start."
- Red Sweep-Second Hand.
- Unbreakable Crystal.
- Triple Chrome-Plated Case for Lasting Wear.
- Chronograph, Window Calendar and Stopwatch All-in-One.
- Radium Glow See-At-Night Hands and Numerals.
- Anti-Magnetic.
- Handsome, Matching Expansion Wristband.

How-to-use, complete instructions plus 1-Year Guarantee and Lifetime Service Guarantee included.

1-YEAR GUARANTEE

Against defective workmanship and materials. A Lifetime Service Guarantee after one year period. Watch will be serviced and repaired at the cost of parts only, our labor free.

A sensational bargain! Don't miss it — or you may be too late! You have always wanted a watch with these expensive features. Now you can have them AT A PRICE YOU CAN AFFORD! This accurate, precision-made Window Calendar Chronograph is ideal for the members of our Armed Services, for sportsmen, doctors, photographers, engineers, technicians, executives, etc. And as for gifts... it's A PERFECT GIFT FOR EVERY OCCASION, such as Graduation, Birthday, Anniversary, Holiday, etc. SEND NO MONEY! Simply mail coupon below for 10-Day FREE TRIAL. Do it now, before supply is exhausted!

ONLY
\$8⁹⁵
plus
10%
Fed.
Tax

MAIL FREE TRIAL COUPON TODAY!

BUYER'S GUILD, Inc., Dept. 1110
Woodbridge, New Jersey

Send _____ Chronograph Watch(es) at \$8.95 plus 90¢ Fed. Tax each. I enclose \$1. for each watch. Will pay postman balance, plus postage. If not completely satisfied may return Watch within 10 days for immediate refund of purchase price.

Name _____

Address _____

City & State _____

☐ SAVE POSTAGE! Send \$9.85 (includes Fed. Tax) and we pay postage. Same 10-Day Free Trial and Money-Back Guarantee.

MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE!

Be sure to order this amazing Chronograph Stopwatch—Window Calendar Wrist-Watch WHILE THE SUPPLY LASTS! Use it — and ENJOY IT!—for 10 full days. If this wonderful combination timepiece isn't everything we say it is, return it for immediate refund of your purchase price. Don't take a chance on being disappointed... mail FREE TRIAL Coupon NOW!

BUYER'S GUILD, Inc., Woodbridge, N. J., Dept. 1110

BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN is published bi-monthly by LEV GLEASON PUBLICATIONS, Inc., 114 East 32nd St., New York 16, N. Y. Leverett S. Gleason, Publisher and Editor, E. A. Filler, Advertising Rep. Editorial and business offices at 114 East 32nd St., New York 16, N. Y. U. S. A. Advertising office at 28 East 1st St., Mt. Vernon, N. Y. Reentered as second-class matter at the Post Office at New York, N. Y. Additional entry at Syracuse, N. Y. Single copies 10¢; yearly subscription in U. S. A. \$6.00. Copyright 1954 by LEV GLEASON PUBLICATIONS, Inc. Printed in the U. S. A. Feb. 1955, Vol. 1, No. 54. The Publisher is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts. Manuscripts accompanied by self-addressed, stamped envelopes will be returned. SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF COVERLESS COPIES OF THIS MAGAZINE IS UNAUTHORIZED AND ILLEGAL.

WANTED: BLACK DIAMOND



IT WAS AS UNBELIEVABLE AS A NIGHTMARE... BUT THE BLACK DIAMOND HAD A PRICE ON HIS HEAD! THE WILD WEST'S FOREMOST FIGHTER AGAINST INJUSTICE HAD TURNED CRIMINAL AND KILLER! HE HAD MURDERED INNOCENT PEOPLE IN COLD BLOOD—DEFIED THE LAW HE'D SWORN TO UPHOLD—AND TAKEN AN OATH OF ENMITY AGAINST THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE! CLEARLY THE BLACK DIAMOND HAD GONE MAD—FOR WHY ELSE WOULD LAWMEN PURSUE HIM DAY AND NIGHT? WHY ELSE WOULD THE LURID POSTER SCREAM...

WANTED: BLACK DIAMOND??!

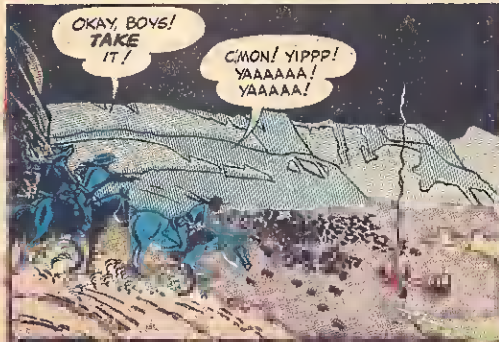
BOSS! WE WERE SAFE! WHY'D YUH TURN AROUND FER?

BECAUSE THE BLACK DIAMOND'S GUN IS EMPTY!! BEFORE HE RELOADS I'M GOIN' TO SQUASH THE MEDDLIN' FOOL INTO THE PRAIRIE!



IT IS EVENING IN CARIBE COUNTY. THE MOON LOOKS DOWN COLDLY UPON A BAND OF RIDERS EMERGING FROM THE WOODS...

NEAR THE CHUCKWAGON, A LEAN, BLACK-CLAD FIGURE TENSES...



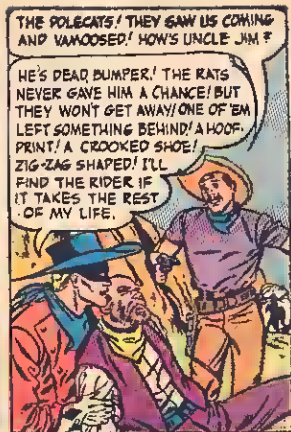
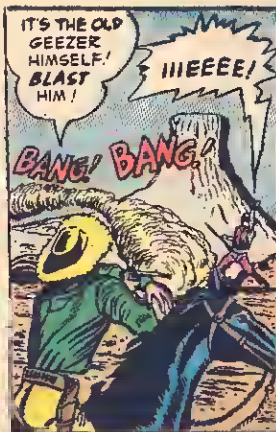
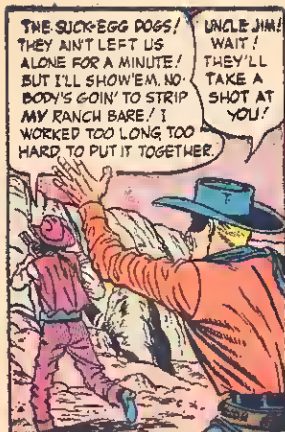
OKAY, BOYS!
TAKE IT!

C'MON! YIPPP!
YAAAAAA!
YAAAAA!

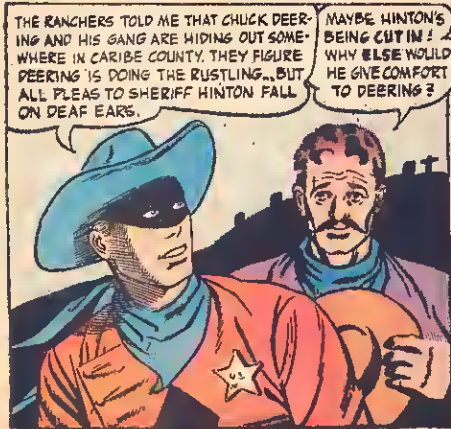


WHAT IN TARNATION IS THAT?

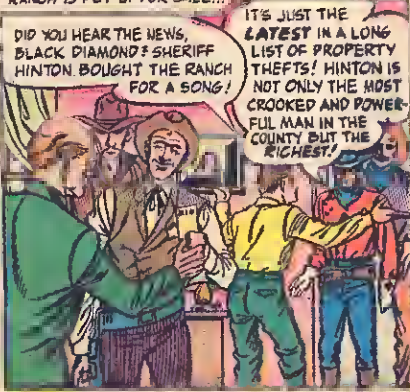
IT'S THE OWLHOOT I'VE BEEN TELLIN' YUH ABOUT, BLACK DIAMOND! THEY BEEN RAIDIN' US RANCHERS EVERY NIGHT, RUSTLIN' US BLIND, THEY ARE BACK AGAIN, CUSS 'EM!



THE FOLLOWING DAY ON BOOT HILL...



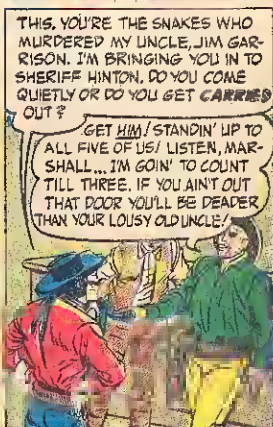
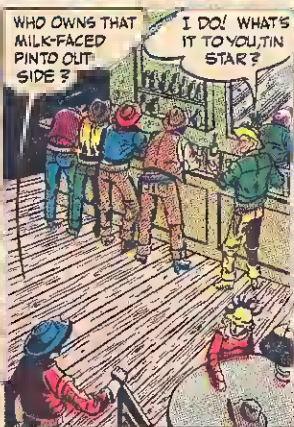
THE FOLLOWING DAY AS JIM GARRISON'S BANKRUPT RANCH IS PUT UP FOR SALE...





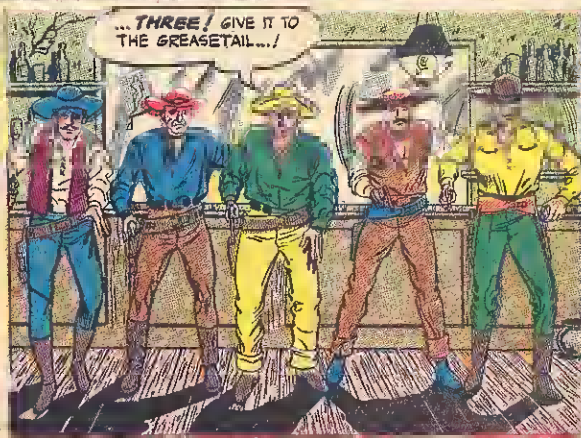
A FEW DAYS LATER, IN CARIBE CITY, THE BLACK DIAMOND FINDS WHAT HE'S BEEN LOOKING FOR!

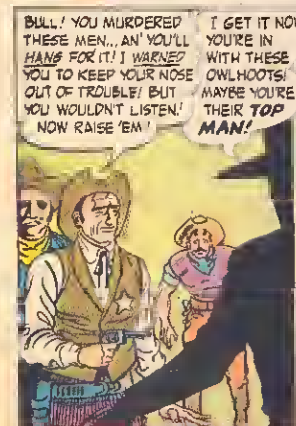
A CROOKED, ZIG-ZAG SHAPED HOOF-PRINT! THE OWLHOOTS WHO RAIDED UNCLE JIM MUST BE INSIDE, RIGHT! DRINKING! LET'S GO BUMPER!

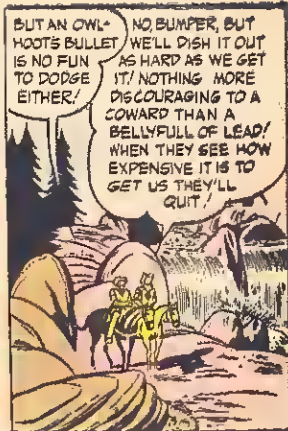
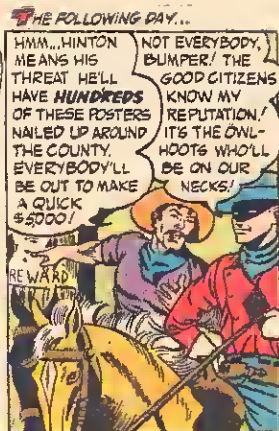


WATCH YOU STERAIKEN. HE AIN'T NO ORDINARY LAW MAN. I HEARD THE BLACK DIAMOND CAN THROW A MEAN GU—UHHH!

SHUT UP! I'M STARTIN' TO COUNT, MARSHAL! IF YOU AIN'T, SKEPADDED BY THE TIME I'M DONE, ME AN' THE BOYS WILL START TARGET PRACTICE ONE... TWO...

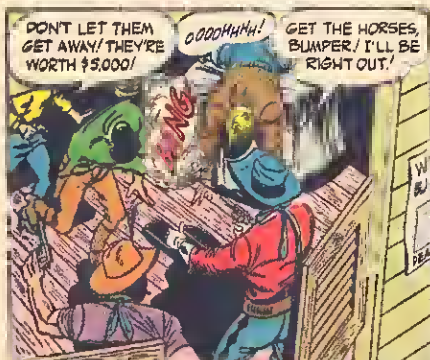




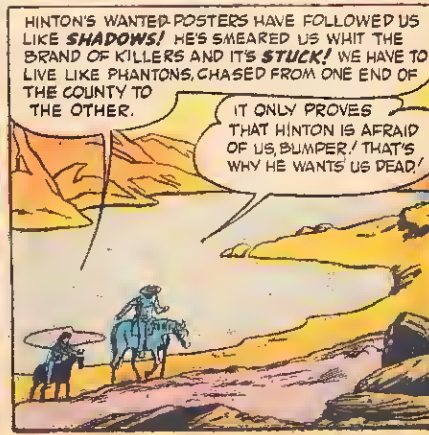
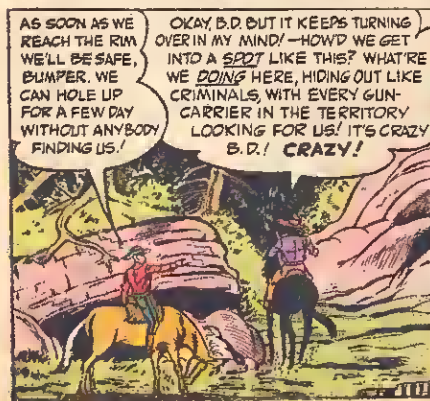


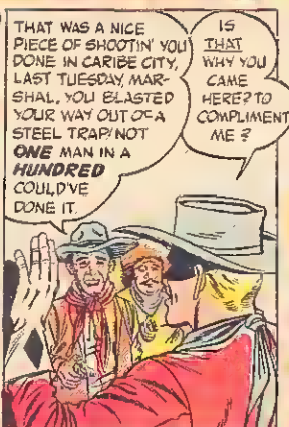
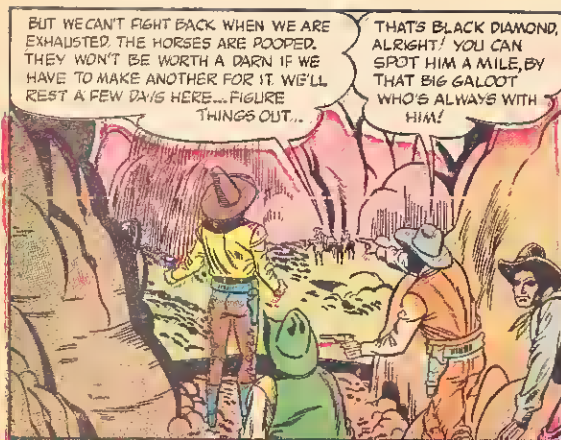
IN THE DAYS THAT PASSED THE BLACK DIAMOND BECOMES THE TARGET OF EVERY SIDWINDER IN CARIBE COUNTY...

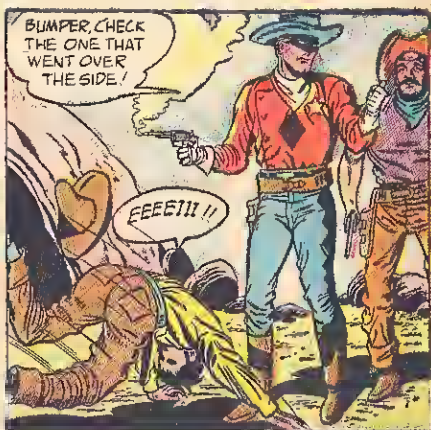
BUT THE OUTSIDE PROVES NO BETTER THAN THE INSIDE! WHEREVER THE BLACK DIAMOND GOES HE IS PURSUED BY WANTED POSTERS... AND VOLLEYS OF LEAD!

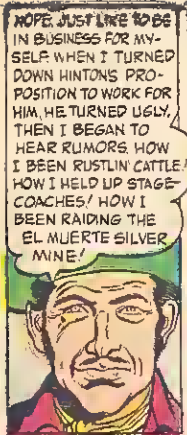


A FEW DAYS LATER OUTSIDE OF CARIBE CITY...





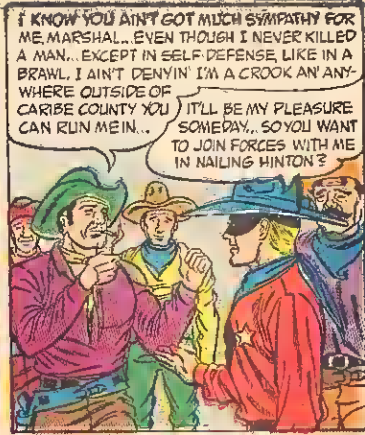




HOPE, JUST LIKE TO BE
IN BUSINESS FOR MY-
SELF WHEN I TURNED
DOWN HINTON'S PRO-
POSITION TO WORK FOR
HIM, HE TURNED UGLY,
THEN I BEGAN TO
HEAR RUMORS, HOW
I BEEN RUSTLIN' CATTLE!
HOW I HELD UP STAGE-
COACHES! HOW I
BEEN RAIDING THE
EL MUERTE SILVER
MINE!



AN ME... I BEEN DOWN ALL DAY IS
SNOOZIN' AN' BOOZIN'... PLAYIN' CARDS
AN' DREAMIN'... AN' I RESENT BEIN'
BLAMED FOR A MESS OF STICKUPS
AN' KILLIN'S I
HAD NOTHING
TO DO WITH!
YOU TOUCH MY
HEART, DEERING!
EVERY VEIN BLEEDS
FOR YOU...

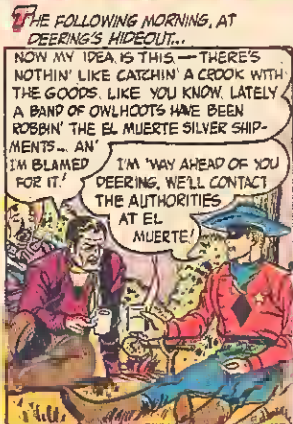


I KNOW YOU AINT GOT MUCH SYMPATHY FOR
ME, MARSHAL... EVEN THOUGH I NEVER KILLED
A MAN... EXCEPT IN SELF-DEFENSE, LIKE IN A
BRAWL, I AINT DENYIN' I'M A CROOK AN' ANY-
WHERE OUTSIDE OF
CARIBE COUNTY YOU
CAN RUN MEIN...
IT'LL BE MY PLEASURE
SOMEDAY... SO YOU WANT
TO JOIN FORCES WITH ME
IN NAILING HINTON?



RIGHT, FACT IS—ME AN'
MY BOYS WERE COVERIN'
HINTON'S GALLOOTS FROM
BEHIND IF THEY'D THROWN
ANY LEAD AT YOU, WE'D
HAVE CASHIERED 'EM!
BUT I SHOULD'VE KNOWN
YOU CAN DO YOUR
OWN CASHIERIN'!

I CAN...
BUT I
CAN'T
DENY
YOUR
HELPIN'
CRASHING
HINTON!



THE FOLLOWING MORNING, AT
DEERING'S HIDEOUT...
NOW MY IDEA IS THIS—THERE'S
NOTHIN' LIKE CATCHIN' A CROOK WITH
THE GOODS, LIKE YOU KNOW, LATELY
A BAND OF OWLHOOTS HAVE BEEN
ROBBIN' THE EL MUERTE SILVER SHIP-
MENTS... AN'
I'M BLAMED
FOR IT!
I'M WAY AHEAD OF YOU
DEERING, WE'LL CONTACT
THE AUTHORITIES
AT EL
MUERTE!



FORGET
IT
THEY'LL
SHOOT
YOU OR
ME
ON
SIGHT!
OKAY THEN WE'LL REAL-
LY PULL A RAID ON EL
MUERTE AND FORCE
THEM TO DO WHAT
WE SAY. HMM... I
HAVEN'T BEEN OUT-
SIDE THE LAW A WEEK
—AND ALREADY BE-
GUN TO THINK LIKE
A CROOK!



RAISE 'EM WHOEVER
GOES FOR A GUN
GETS SHOT!

CHUCK DEERING!... (GASP!)
THE BLACK DIAMOND!
... YOU'RE IN CAHOOTS!

TEMPORARILY!
HERE'S WHAT
YOU'RE GOING
TO DO...



SHORTLY AFTER...
YOU'RE NOT TAKING OUR SILVER?
YOU'RE LOADING THE LOCKERS
WITH ROCKS! WHAT KIND OF
THIEVERY IS THIS?

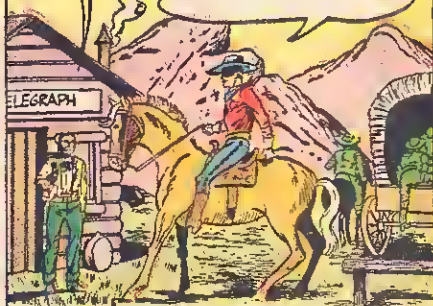
NO THIEVERY
AT ALL! WE'RE
OUT TO CATCH
A THIEF! WITH
YOUR
COOPERATION
WE'LL SUCCEED!

MOMENTS LATER IN THE TELEGRAPH SHACK...

SEND THIS OUT AT ONCE! TO SHERIFF HINTON OF CARIBE COUNTY! I WANT AN ESCORT OF DEPUTIES TO RENDEZVOUS WITH THE LARGEST SILVER SHIPMENT EVER TO LEAVE OUR MINE! HE'S TO MEET THE DELIVERY WAGON AT BRONSON FORK!

HINTON GOT THE MESSAGE! IF YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT HINTON—

I AM! A BAND OF OUTLAWS WILL ATTACK THE WAGON LONG BEFORE IT REACHES BRONSON FORK! WHEN IT DOES, DEERING AND I WILL BE ON HAND TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!



ONE HOUR LATER, ON THE ROAD...

NOT A SIGN OF HINTON! IT CAN'T BE THAT HE PASSED UP THIS OPPORTUNITY!

WAIT! THERE'S A STAGE-COACH COMING FROM THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION! NO COACH IS DUE AT THIS HOUR! DO YOU THINK...



YES, THAT'S IT, BUMPER! IT'S HINTON'S OWLHOOTS!

DRAW UP ALONG-SIDE AN' LET 'EM HAVE IT! CROWD THE BEGGARS OFF THE ROAD!

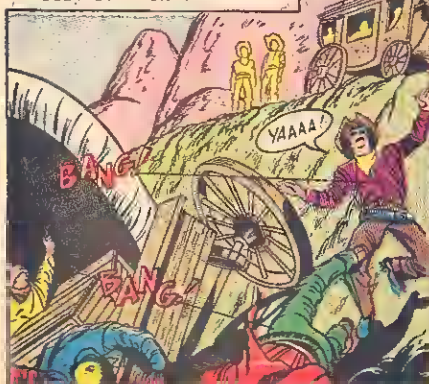


QUICK! AFTER 'EM! WIPE 'EM OUT! GRAB THE SILVER!

EIEI!!!

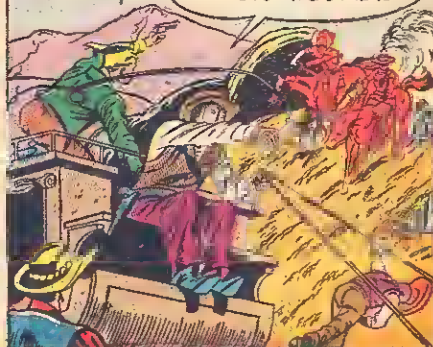


BUT THE MASKED RAIDERS RUSH GLEEFULLY FORWARD...



(GASP!)...IT'S THE BLACK DIAMOND!

GET THIS STAGE OUTA HERE! I SEEN THE BLACK DIAMOND IN ACTION BEFORE! FORGET ABOUT THE OTHERS!



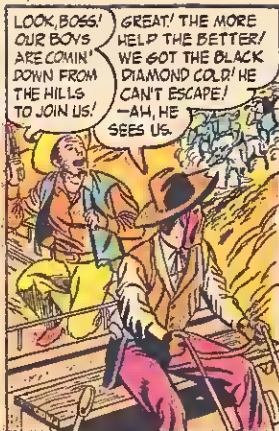
AS A SUDDEN METALLIC SOUND REACHES THE MASKED LEADER'S EARS...



BOSS, ARE YOU LOCO? I THOUGHT WE WERE VAMPOOSIN'!

NOT WHEN THE BLACK DIAMOND IS OUT OF! AMMUNITION! BY THE TIME HE CAN RELOAD, I'LL SPREAD HIM FLAT ON THE PRAIRIE! GO, YOU DEVILS, GO!

CLICK!
CLICK!



LOOK, BOSS! OUR BOYS ARE COMIN' DOWN FROM THE HILLS TO JOIN US!

GREAT! THE MORE HELP THE BETTER! WE GOT THE BLACK DIAMOND COLD! HE CAN'T ESCAPE! —AH, HE SEES US.



(GASP!)...BLACK DIAMOND! THEY GOT US!

NOT YET! WE'VE GOT ONE CHANCE... REALIAPON! EL LOBO! STOP THEM! QUICK!

WHINNEY!



(GASP!)...THEY UNDERSTOOD! THEY'RE TURNING THE COACH HORSES... BUT WE'RE STILL LICKED! THEY'VE GOT MORE OWL-HOOTS COMING ON HORSES!

DEERING WILL TAKE CARE OF THEM! LET'S HANDLE THE BUNCH ON THE STAGE-COACH!



BANG! BANG!
EEEEEE!
OUGGH!



Y-YOU'RE RIGHT, B.D.! HERE COMES DEERING, HE'S MOPPING UP!

YAAH!



D-DON'T SHOOT... (GASP)... WE GIVE UP!

BRR-TA-BAAANNN



SHOCKILY AFTER, AS THE BLACK DIAMOND REMOVES A MASK FROM ONE OF THE CORPSE'S FACE...

IT'S HINTON, JUST LIKE WE THOUGHT, YUH'RE CLEARED, BLACK DIAMOND! NOBODY WANTS YOU NO MORE!

NOBODY EVER WILL! YOU BETTER REMEMBER THAT, TOO, DEERING! A MARKED MAN CAN'T LIVE IN PEACE OR REST IN PEACE!

LIKE HINTON, ALL A CROOK GETS OUT OF HIS CRIMES IS A MOUND ON BOOT HILL.

FOON'S GOLD

(GASP!)...I
HIT IT! AF-
TER FORTY
YEARS I
HIT IT!...
(GASP!)...

STRING, PECK
AND BENNING
HAD DECIDED
TO CALL IT A
DAY. THEY
HAD BECOME
SICKENINGLY UN-
SUCCESSFUL IN
THEIR
STICKUPS AND
HAD BEGUN
TO HATE AND BLAME ONE ANOTHER
FOR THEIR FAILURES. THEY WERE
DRINKING "FINAL TOASTS" TO EACH
OTHER'S ILL HEALTH WHEN THE BAWLING
DOORS OF THE SALOON BURST OPEN...

HIT WHAT,
YUH OLD
GREASE-
TAIL?
WHAT'D
YUH HIT?

DON'T PAY OLD HANK NO MIND, MISTER!
HE'S ALWAYS BUSTIN' IN WITH A BIG FIND
THAT AIN'T WORTH A CONFEDERATE
NICKEL!

YORE A LIAR, JIM HIGGINS! A BALD-FACED,
CROSS-EYED LIAR!! I KNOW I AIN'T
FOUND NOTHIN' TILL NOW BUT FOOL'S
GOLD, BUT TODAY I HIT IT! I HIT IT, I
TELL YUH!

OKAY, HANK... SO
YUH HIT IT. HAVE
A DRINK ON THE
HOUSE.

THINK I'M NUTS, DON'T YUH!
SURE! I KNOW WHAT YOZE THINKIN'/
LOCO HANK! HE DON'T KNOW FOOLS
GOLD FROM REAL GOLD! FOR FORTY
YEARS HE DUG UP NOTHIN' BUT
DIET AND ROCKS! BUT NOW I GOT
ENOUGH GOLD DUST ON MY MULES
TO BUY UP HALF OF CALIFORNIA!

PSST...
STICK
AROUN',
KEEP AN
EYE ON THE
SOURDOUGH.
I WANT A
LOOK AT
HIS MULES!

FOLKS SAY IF
YUH KEEP AT
A THING LONG
ENOUGH...(HIC!)
...YORE BOUND
TO STRIKE PAY
DIRT! WELL, I
STRUCK IT!!
STRUCK IT BIG!!

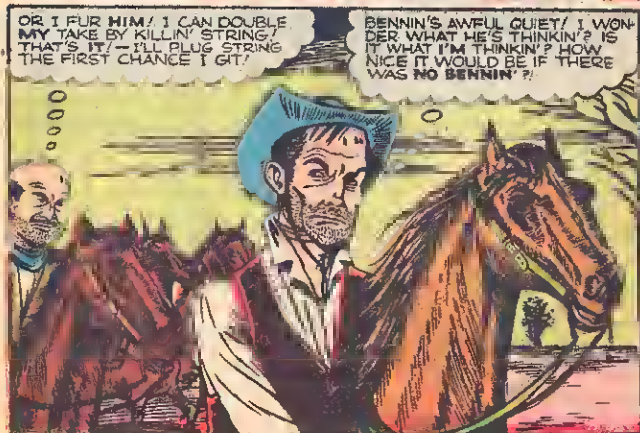
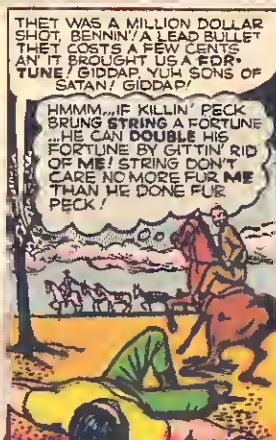
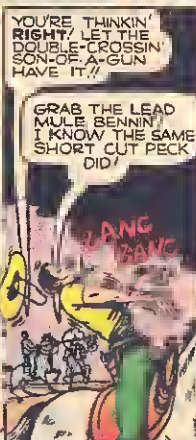
HMMM...IT'S
HARD TO TELL
IF IT'S
GENUINE IN
THIS LIGHT!
IT LOOKS
LIKE GOLD!
BUT SO DOES
FOOL'S GOLD!

THE BEST THING TO
DO IS TO TAKE IT...
AN' DECIDE LATER!
MEBBE THIS'S THE
HAUL STRING, BENNIN'
AN' ME HAVE BEEN
WAITIN' FOR "

LATER THAT NIGHT, JUST OUT OF TOWN.

GITTIN' THE GOLD'S
A CINCH! HOW DO
WE ESCAPE WITH
IT?

HEAD FOR THE
DESERT AN' TAKE
THE PACK MULES
WITH US! NOW
QUIET! HERE
COMES THE OLD
BUZZARD NOW!



BY THE TIME THE SUN REACHED ITS ZENITH THE NEXT MORNING THE TWO MEN HAD ENTERED THAT BLAZING FURNACE... THAT NATURAL COVEN THAT KNEW NO COOLING... THE DESERT! EACH MAN, STRANGELY ENOUGH, HAD THE SAME THOUGHT!!

I'LL KILL HIM THE FIRST CHANCE I GET! THE FIRST TIME HE TURNS HIS BACK TO ME!

I'LL PLUG HIM WHILE HE SLEEPS! HE'S GOTTA LIE DOWN SOME TIME AN' CLOSE HIS FAT EYES!



BUT AS THE SUN GREW HOTTER AND HOTTER, STRING AND BENKIN REALIZED THAT IN THEIR HASTE, THEY'D MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE! THEY'D TAKEN ALONG NO WATER! JUST THE FEW DROPS IN THEIR CANTENS!!

THERE'S ANOTHER REASON TO CROAK THAT FAT HOSS! I NEED HIS WATER! BUT I GOTTA WORK FAST! THE SOONER I KILL HIM, THE LESS HE'LL DRINK!

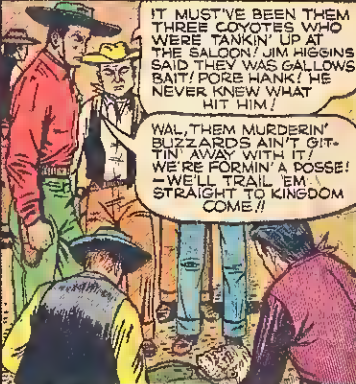
I WANT HIS WATER. I WANT HIS GOLD. AN' I WANT HIM DEAD! LOOK THE OTHER WAY, STRING! LOOK UP! LOOK DOWN! LOOK FOR ANYTHIN' BUT THE BULLET YU'LL GET!



MEANWHILE, IN TOWN, THEY FOUND THE RIBBLED BODY OF OLD HANK...

IT MUST'VE BEEN THEM THREE COYOTES WHO WERE TANKIN' UP AT THE SALOON! JIM HIGGINS SAID THEY WAS GALLOWES BATT' PORE HANK! HE NEVER KNEW WHAT HIT HIM!

WAL, THEM MURDERIN' BUZZARDS AIN'T GITTIN' AWAY WITH IT! WE'RE FORMIN' A POSSE! -WE'LL TRAIL 'EM STRAIGHT TO KINGDOM COME!!



LATER THAT DAY...

ONE THING IS SURE! THEM OWLHOOTS MUST BE CRAZIER THAN OLD HANK WAS! FOR FORTY YEARS HANK IMAGINED HE MADE A GOLD STRIKE! SOMETIMES HE FILLED HIS BAGS WITH ROCKS... SOMETIMES WITH SAND...

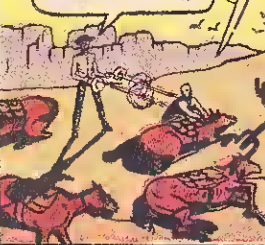
SHORE! BUT OLD HANK WAS SWEET AN' HARMLESS! KILLIN' HIM WAS LIKE KILLIN' A CHILD!



LATER THAT DAY, AS THE SKIN-SHRIVELLING SUN CLAIMED THE PACK MULES...

(GASP!)... T-THEY WON'T GIT UP STRING!... (GASP!)... T-THEY'RE DYIN' ON US! DYIN' WITH MILLIONS OF BUCKS WORTH OF GOLD ON THEIR BACKS!!... W-WE'RE FINISHED, STRING! WE'RE FINISHED!!...

NO FAT STUFF!! YORE FINISHED!!...



I'M ON MY OWN!... (GASP!) GOT ENOUGH GOLD ON M-MY BACK TO RETIRE ON... AN' I'M GONNA MAKE IT, TOO... (GASP!)... THEM BUZZARDS AIN'T GONNA PICK MY BONES...! N-NO!... NO!... NOT ME...! (GASP!)... I-I'M MAKIN' IT!



BUT BY SUNDOWN...

WE BEEN SPARED A TRIAL AN' A HANGIN'... HERE'S TWO SKELETONS! BUT WHERE'S THE THIRD?

MEBBE IT'S WHERE'S THE FLOCK OF VULTURES IS RISIN'! C'MON!



AND IT WAS!! A THIRD SKELETON WITH BAGS TRAILING OUT BEHIND IT! BUT THE POSSE... UPON EXAMINING THE BAGS...



H-HOLY JUMPIN'! NUGGETS! -S-SOLID GOLD!!

(GASP!)... G-GOLD DUST! TONS OF IT!...



YES, AFTER FORTY YEARS... OLD HANK... CRAZY OLD HANK... AND THOSE WHO ROBBED HIM... HAD FINALLY STRUCK IT RICH!!



IN JUN JOE

AND

The Forked Stick

by "The Old Cowhand"



A bunch of us were lazing around the corral at the Double Bar-O ranch, about 20 miles north of Amarillo, one day back in July 1904. Things were pretty quiet as most of the boys and the bossman were away driving a big herd to market.

We hadn't had a bit of fighting trouble or anything since Black Diamond and Bumper had helped us drive the rustlers north. Yes sir, things were so doggoned quiet, that we were beginning to yen for some excitement or something.

Payday was still two weeks off so there wasn't much use to go to town. We were bored stiff, all of us.

Whilst we were chewing the fat, suddenly old Mark looked up, his face full of excitement, and yelled, "Wboopee—someone's riding in over the desert. Look at that dust yonder."

Sure enough this was no mirage for soon we could see the rider coming in, plain as a possum. It turned out to be no stranger, but our old pal, Black Diamond.

Boy, were we glad to see him. Of course we would have been glad to see anyone, but good old Black Diamond was a feast for sore eyes.

He was mighty welcome and just in time for chow. After we'd filled our bellies good and rolled ourselves a smoke out of the Bull Durham sack, we sat back and asked Black Diamond if he knew anything worth talking about. He did and told us an amusing yarn.

It seems he had been up in Goldfield, Nevada, the big boom mining town that everybody was talking about. The first real strike had been made only about a year ago right in the desert, and the town now had over 10,000 people and was growing crazy-like. There were already six or seven big mines in operation and thousands of claims staked out.

There was a lot of trouble in the town, what with mighty little law and some rough hombres from all over. Soon these sneaky devils found a clever way of stealing themselves a fortune—something new and unheard of in those parts—they called it "highgrading." These highgraders would take a job in the mines at \$5.00 a day. They could have gotten \$50.00 a day tending bar or shoeing borses.

But not for them—because you could only highgrade in the mines. This is the way they were working it.

All the mines in Goldfield were producing millions of dollars and every hour or so some miner would run onto a hunk of high grade ore—a small piece, size of a fire brick might assay up to a thousand dollars in pure gold. Sometimes a miner would come upon a real nugget of solid gold—worth \$5,000.00 or more.

Now it seemed a real shame to shovel this high grade ore into the company bins along with the regular ore. It seemed a lot smarter to hide these hunks of ore under their shirts and lug them off at the end of the day. Some guys even put on a woman's corset under their shirt and attached special pockets so they could lug off a lot of high grade ore.

It got so bad finally, that the company bosses decided to take steps to stop this stealing.

It was just at this time that Black Diamond was in Goldfield, and the big Florence mine hired him to put a stop to "highgrading."

The very first day, while he was searching for the hideout in the hills where the thieves were storing the loot, he ran onto an old Injun prospector who was looking for gold deposits with a forked stick—a divining rod.

You see there are many who believe that if you hold a forked ash stick horizontally out in front of you and walk slowly over likely ground, if there's gold underneath the surface, the stick will bend towards the earth.

While Black Diamond was talking with old Injun Joe—who comes along, but a couple of miners pulling a hurro behind them. When they saw Black Diamond, somehow, they seemed to recognize him and turned sharp to beat it.

But the hurro wouldn't hudge.

Black Diamond got suspicious, when they decided to stay with the hurro, instead of running for safety—and they acted mighty guilty.

"Walk over and see what they got," said Black Diamond to the Indian, "and I'll keep those rats covered."

Over goes old Injun Joe. The two strangers just stood there—as they had to, when Black Diamond had a bead on them with both six shooters.

"We ain't done a thing—not nothin' at all," exclaimed one of them. And they looked real innocent too. But just then old Joe's forked stick began to twitch and shiver, and it pointed right to the pack hags on the hurro.

"Come quick, Black Diamond, come quick," yelled Injun Joe, excitedly. "I have found the stolen gold."

Black Diamond raced over, opened up the pack hags—and sure enough, they were filled with high grade ore and nuggets of pure gold, all stolen from the mine.

When they got the pack hags back to the assay office in Goldfield, they were found to be worth \$106,000.00—quite a haul.

The two highgraders were tried up in Tonapah and got two years—suspended. But the company was happy because it scared off the highgraders for a while, and they put Pinkertons in the mines to watch out.

And who do you think these highgraders turned out to be. Well, sir, two of the rustlers, Black Diamond had driven off the Double Bar-O six months before.



COMANCHE WAR DRUMS



HEAVEN HELP US
IF RELIAPON AND
EL LOBO STUMBLE!

—GASP!— BLACK DIAMOND!
—LOOK WHAT'S AHEAD!

THEY SAY THAT BLOOD IS THICKER THAN WATER... BUT NOT WHEN THERE'S **BAD BLOOD** BETWEEN BROTHERS! AS IF BATTLING A MURDEROUS COMANCHE UPRISING WEREN'T **TROUBLE** ENOUGH, THE BLACK DIAMOND FINDS HIMSELF TRAPPED IN A WEB OF PASSIONS IN WHICH BROTHER IS Pitted AGAINST BROTHER IN A DUEL OF HATRED THAT CAN ONLY END IN DEATH AND DISASTER!

ONE BLAZING HOT AFTERNOON AT A
SOUTHWEST ARMY OUTPOST, FORT ADOBE...

MAJOR? MAJOR TUCKER?
QUICK! THE SUPPLY
TRAIN IS HERE!

GOOD HEAVENS!!!
—GASP!— NOT
ANOTHER ATTACK?!!

YUH MEAN
WHAT'S LEFT
OF IT?

OFFICE
OF THE
COMMANDER

YES, MAJOR! ANOTHER AMBUSH! AGAIN THEY GOT
AWAY WITH MOST OF OUR SUPPLIES! ACCORDING TO
LT. HARRIS, IT WAS THE **SAME BUNCH!** YOUR...
BROTHER!!! CLINT TUCKER!

CLINTS ADDED TO HIS BAND,
MAJOR! THE SURVIVORS COUNT-
ED AT LEAST **TWENTY**
OWLHOOTS IN HIS PACK!

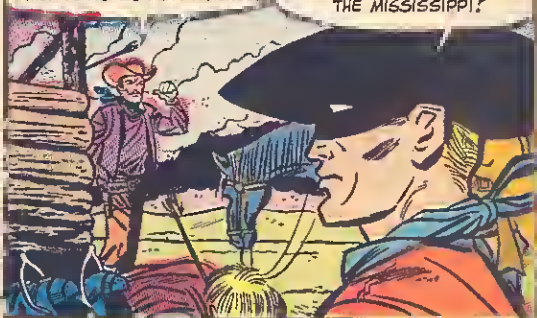
CLINT'S A NO GOOD CUTTHROAT! BUT WHY SHOULD HE PICK ON FORT ADOBE?

I CAN THINK OF A LOT OF REASONS, SIR! BUT WE'D BETTER NAIL HIM... AND FAST! **WHATEVER** THE REASON! WITH TALK OF A COMANCHE UPRISING, HIS RAIDS COULD MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH!



THAT EVENING, NOT FAR FROM FORT ADOBE...

THEY'RE ALL DEAD INSIDE, BLACK DIAMOND! SAME AS IN THOSE OTHER RANCHES WE RAN ACROSS!



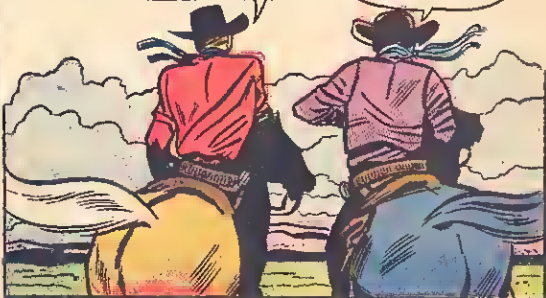
WE'RE IN FOR IT, BUMPER! NOW AND THEN, SOME COMANCHE HOT HEAD GETS VISIONS OF GRANDEUR, OF PUSHING THE WHITE MAN BACK BEYOND THE MISSISSIPPI!

HE SEIZES ON SOME TRIBAL GRIEVANCE, LIQUORS UP HIS STUPIDEST YOUNG BUCKS AND GOES OUT ON A KILLING SPREE THAT LASTS ONLY AS LONG AS IT TAKES THE ARMY TO PUT DOWN HIS UPRISING! -- GET YOUR SHOVEL, BUMPER!



WE CAME HERE TO TRACK DOWN CLINT TUCKER, BUT WE'LL **FORGET** ABOUT THAT, BUMPER! THIS COMANCHE PROBLEM IS MORE SERIOUS! WE'LL HEAD FOR FORT ADOBE RIGHT NOW!

IF THERE'S A FORT ADOBE LEFT! THE WAY THESE INJUNS HAVE BEEN ACTING UP, **ANYTHING** CAN HAPPEN!



LATER THAT NIGHT AT FORT ADOBE...

HAN! THAT WAS **SOME** MEAL, MRS. TUCKER?

NO THANKS TO CLINT TUCKER! IF IT WAS LEFT TO MY BROTHER, CLINT, WE'D ALL BE FEEDING **WORMS**, NOT OURSELVES!

HOW'S THAT, MAJOR?



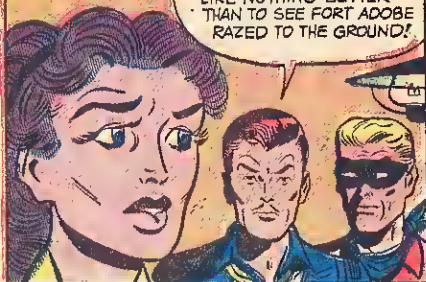
MY BROTHER CLINT WAS THE BAD APPLE IN THE FAMILY. IT'S AS IF HE'D BEEN MADE WRONG. HE STARTED WITH PETTY THIEVERY AND GAMBLING, THEN HE GRADUATED TO RUSTLING, HOLOUPS AND **MURDER**! I TRIED TO STOP HIM. NOT A CHANCE!

CLINT **HATES** SAM... BECAUSE OF ME!



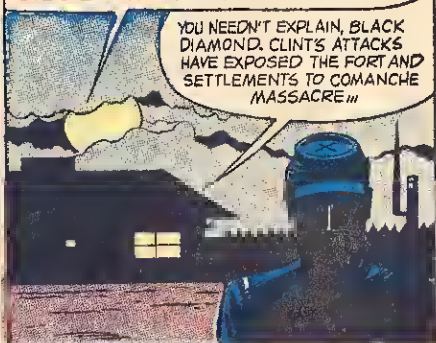
CLINT FANCIED HIMSELF IN LOVE WITH ME. HE WANTED ME TO RUN AWAY WITH HIM, BUT I LOVED SAM. WHEN I MARRIED SAM, CLINT WENT BERSERK. HE EVEN TRIED TO KILL SAM!

THAT'S TRUE, BLACK DIAMOND. CLINT WOULD LIKE NOTHING BETTER THAN TO SEE FORT ADOBE RAZED TO THE GROUND!



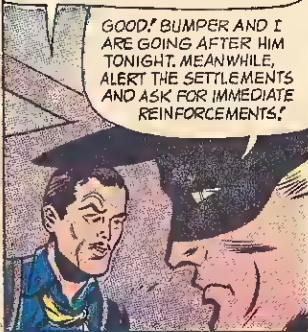
HE'LL ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSE, UNLESS WE CAPTURE HIM! MAJOR, I KNOW CLINT TUCKER IS YOUR BROTHER, BUT TO ME HE'S A COLD BLOODED KILLER I'VE BEEN TRAILING FOR A MONTH!

YOU NEEDN'T EXPLAIN, BLACK DIAMOND. CLINT'S ATTACKS HAVE EXPOSED THE FORT AND SETTLEMENTS TO COMANCHE MASSACRE!!!



CLINT SHOULD BE TREATED LIKE ANY OTHER DESPERADO. YOU HAVE MY FULL COOPERATION IN TRACKING HIM DOWN AND DESTROYING HIM!

GOOD! BUMPER AND I ARE GOING AFTER HIM TONIGHT. MEANWHILE, ALERT THE SETTLEMENTS AND ASK FOR IMMEDIATE REINFORCEMENTS!



THE FOLLOWING MORNING ON THE PRAIRIE!!!

TUCKER'S PASSED THIS WAY! THERE ARE WAGON TRACKS EVERYWHERE! HIS HIDEOUT MUST BE IN THOSE HILLS!

HE'S SURE ACTING OUT OF SPITE! HE CAN'T MAKE A DIME OUT OF THE THINGS HE STOLE. ALL HE GOT WAS FOOD, AMMO AND GU--! GASP! LISTEN!! PUT YOUR EAR CLOSE TO THE GROUND!



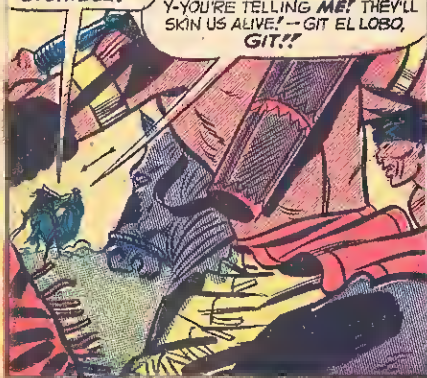
IT'S A LARGE BODY OF RIDERS, COMING THIS WAY!!

H-HERE THEY COME! THEY'RE COMANCHE!!

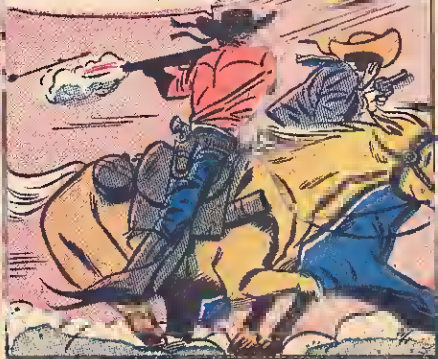


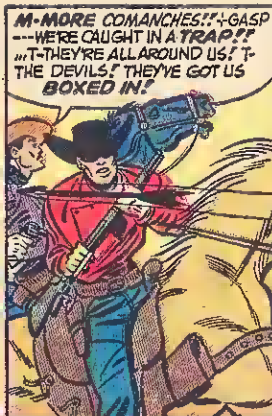
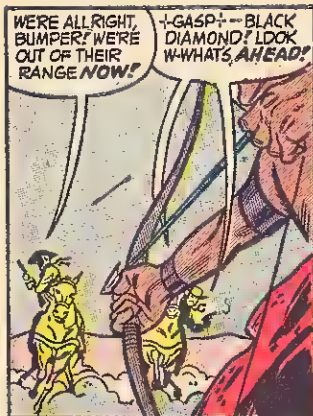
RIDE FOR YOUR LIFE, BUMPER! HEAVEN HELP US IF OUR HORSES STUMBLE!

Y-YOU'RE TELLING ME! THEY'LL SKIN US ALIVE! -- GIT EL LOBO, GIT!!

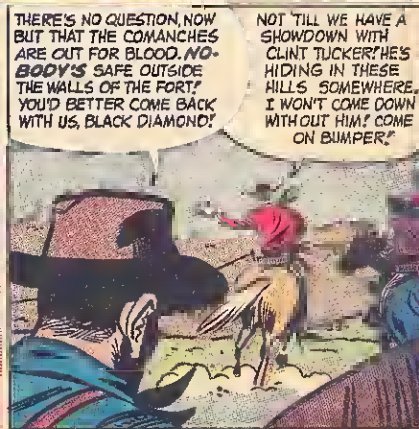
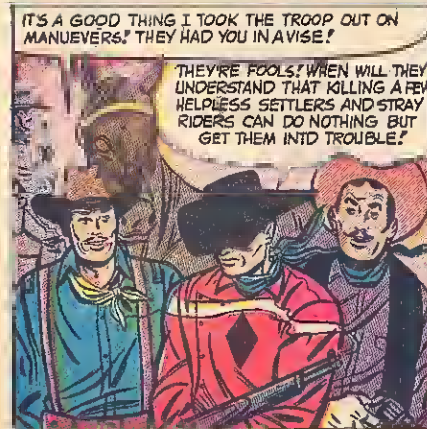
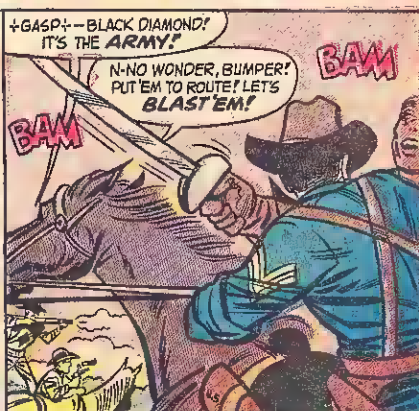
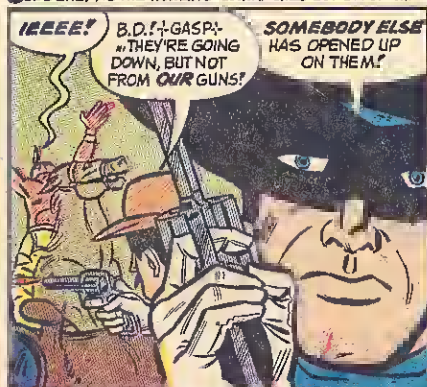


THAT'S IT, BUMPER! PUT DISTANCE BETWEEN US. NO INTJUN PONY CAN CATCH US ONCE RELIAPON AND LOBO HIT THEIR STRIDE!

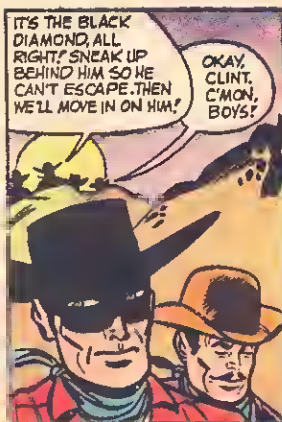
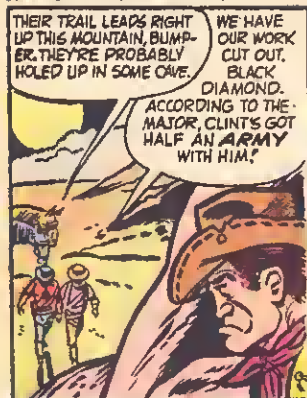




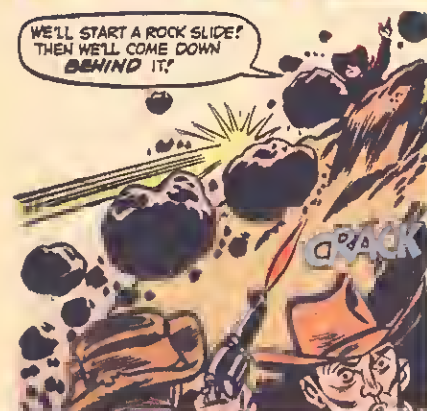
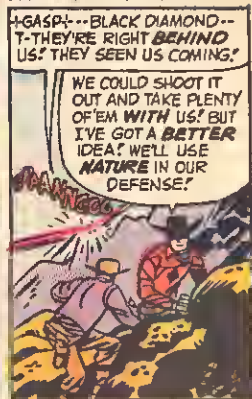
SUDDENLY AS THE HOWLING COMANCHES GOT CLOSER...



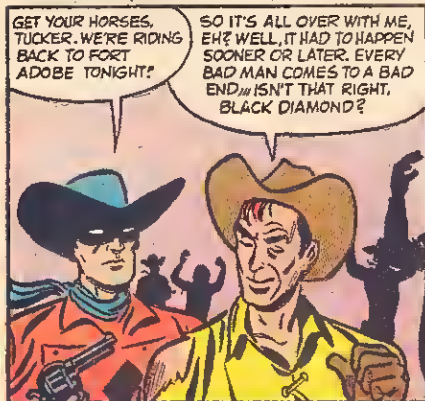
HOURS LATER AT NIGHTFALL...



TEN MINUTES LATER...



SHORTLY AFTER, AT THE OUTLAW'S HANGOUT...

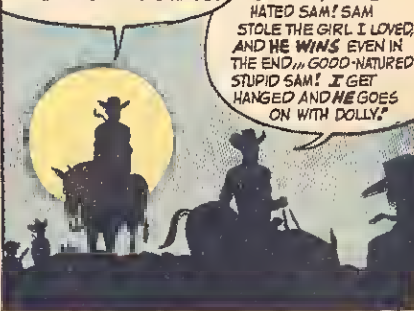


GET YOUR HORSES, TUCKER. WE'RE RIDING BACK TO FORT ADOBE TONIGHT!

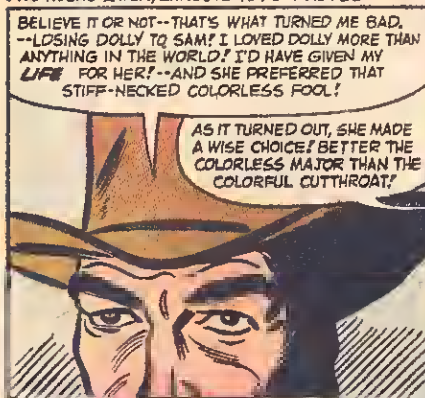
SO IT'S ALL OVER WITH ME, EH? WELL, IT HAD TO HAPPEN SOONER OR LATER. EVERY BAD MAN COMES TO A BAD END... ISN'T THAT RIGHT, BLACK DIAMOND?

IT'S RIGHT IN **YOUR** CASE, TUCKER. YOU DESERVE HANGING **TEN** TIMES OVER. YOUR RAIDS ON ARMY SUPPLY TRAINS LEFT THE SETTLEMENTS EXPOSED TO COMANCHE RAIDS!

FUNNY? I NEVER THOUGHT OF IT THAT WAY. I FELT I WAS GETTING EVEN WITH MY BROTHER SAM. I HATED SAM! SAM STOLE THE GIRL I LOVED, AND HE **WINS** EVEN IN THE END... **GODD-NATURED STUPID SAM! I GET HANGED AND HE GOES ON WITH DOLLY!**

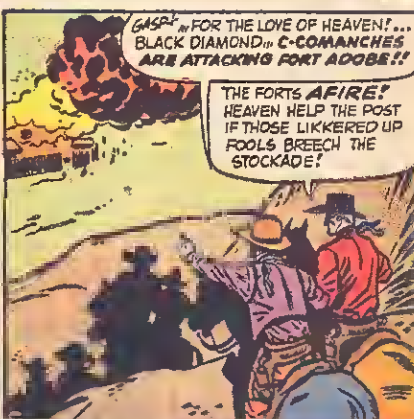


TWO HOURS LATER, ENROUTE TO FORT ADOBE--



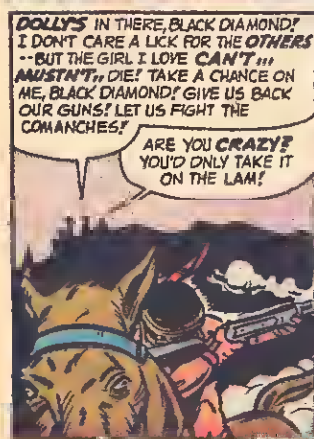
BELIEVE IT OR NOT--THAT'S WHAT TURNED ME BAD, --LOSING DOLLY TO SAM! I LOVED DOLLY MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD! I'D HAVE GIVEN MY **LIFE** FOR HER!--AND SHE PREFERRED THAT STIFF-NECKED COLORLESS FOOL!

AS IT TURNED OUT, SHE MADE A WISE CHOICE! BETTER THE COLORLESS MAJOR THAN THE COLORFUL CUTTHROAT!



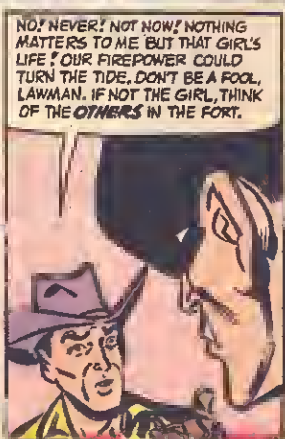
GASP! "FOR THE LOVE OF HEAVEN!... BLACK DIAMOND... **C-COMANCHES ARE ATTACKING FORT ADOBE!!**"

THE FORTS **AFIRE!** HEAVEN HELP THE POST IF THOSE LIKKERED UP FOOLS BREACH THE STOCKADE!



DOLLY'S IN THERE, BLACK DIAMOND! I DON'T CARE A LUCK FOR THE **OTHERS** --BUT THE GIRL I LOVE **CAN'T**!!! **MUSTN'T**, DIE! TAKE A CHANCE ON ME, BLACK DIAMOND! GIVE US BACK OUR GUNS! LET US FIGHT THE COMANCHES!

ARE YOU **CRAZY?** YOU'D ONLY TAKE IT ON THE **LAM!**



NO! NEVER! NOT NOW! NOTHING MATTERS TO ME BUT THAT GIRL'S LIFE! OUR FIREPOWER COULD TURN THE TIDE, DON'T BE A FOOL, LAWMAN. IF NOT THE GIRL, THINK OF THE **OTHERS IN THE FORT.**



TAKE A CHANCE! THE FORTS IN A FIX IF YOU **DON'T!**

ALL RIGHT, TUCKER. YOU GET YOUR GUNS. **DOUBLE CROSS ME AND YOU WON'T LIVE TO GLOAT ABOUT IT!**

BUT MOMENTS LATER--

SUCKER! THAT STUPID FRILL MEANS **NOTHING** TO ME! LET HER **DIE** FOR CHOOSING SAM INSTEAD OF ME! C'MON, BOYS! JOIN THE SLAUGHTER! AFTER ALL, IT'S **US** WHO PUT THE **GUNS** IN THOSE REDSKIN'S HANDS!

† GASP! † THE DIRTY—H—HE **LIED!**



HE'S BEEN RAIDING THE SUPPLY TRAINS IN ORDER TO SELL ARMY GUNS AND MUNITION TO THE COMANCHES.



WAIT A MINUTE. FORT ADOBE ISN'T DONE FOR YET! NOT WHILE THE **WIND'S** BLOWING IN THE DIRECTION IT IS! I'VE GOT AN IDEA!



SHORTLY AFTER IN THE SHADOWS OF FORT ADOBE--

THERE HASN'T BEEN RAIN HERE IN A MONTH. THE PRAIRIE GRASS IS LIKE **TINDER!**

I GET IT! THE FIRE WON'T JUMP THE CLEARING AND REACH THE FORT. THE WIND WON'T **LET IT!**



YIIII! EEEAAAA

IT'S **WORKING** THEY'RE TURNING **BACK!**



MAJOR TUCKER, **LOOK!** THE BLACK DIAMOND HAS STARTED A PRAIRIE FIRE! THE REDSKINS ARE ON THE RUN!

IT'S A-A MIRACLE! WE'RE SAVED, DOLLY! WE'RE **SAVED!**



CLINT--† GASP! † CLINT!--WE'RE **TRAPPED!** THE **FIRE'S** ALL AROUND US!!

N-NO! IT **CAN'T BE--** RIDE!-- RIDE!!



NO! T-THERE'S NO WAY OUT--
--IT'S ALL AROUND--
YAAAAAAAAAAAA!



THE NEXT MORNING--

GOODBYE, BLACK DIAMOND. WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH, ESPECIALLY MYSELF! I HAD SOME SLIGHT FEELING THAT THERE WAS **SOME GOOD** LEFT IN CLINT-- BUT THAT'S ERASED NOW!

IT **SHOULD BE**. MRS. TUCKER, CLINT TUCKER WAS AS **ROTTEN** AS THE MAJOR IS FINE! HE FANNED THE FLAMES OF HATRED --AND **DIED** IN THOSE FLAMES -- AS HE DESERVED!



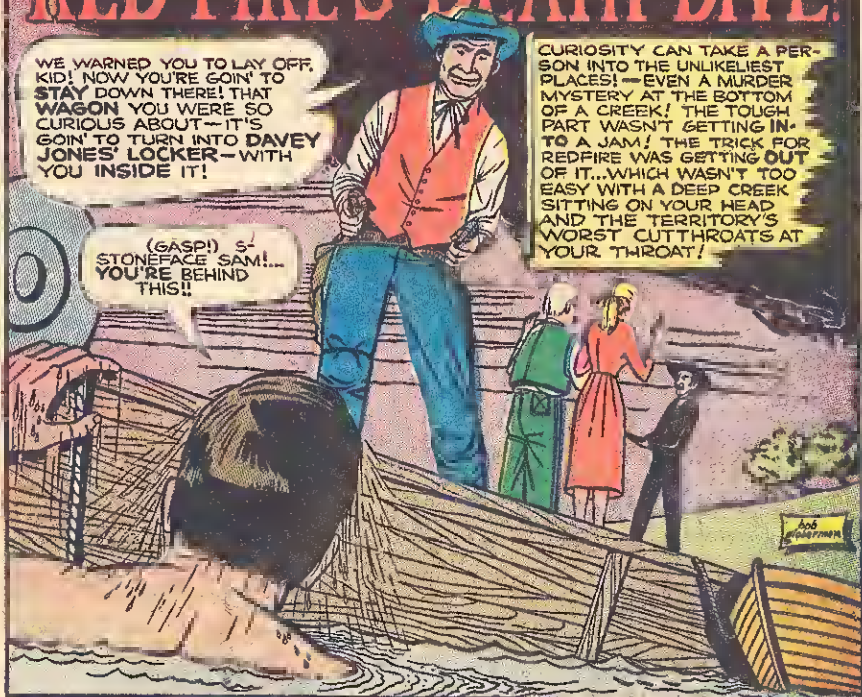
THE END

RED FIRE'S DEATH DIVE!

WE WARNED YOU TO LAY OFF, KID! NOW YOU'RE GOIN' TO STAY DOWN THERE! THAT WAGON YOU WERE SO CURIOUS ABOUT—IT'S GOIN' TO TURN INTO DAVEY JONES' LOCKER—WITH YOU INSIDE IT!

(GASP!) S-
STONEFACE SAM!...
YOU'RE BEHIND
THIS!!

CURIOSITY CAN TAKE A PERSON INTO THE UNLIKELIEST PLACES!—EVEN A MURDER MYSTERY AT THE BOTTOM OF A CREEK! THE TOUGH PART WASN'T GETTING INTO A JAM! THE TRICK FOR REDFIRE WAS GETTING OUT OF IT...WHICH WASN'T TOO EASY WITH A DEEP CREEK SITTING ON YOUR HEAD AND THE TERRITORY'S WORST CUTTHROATS AT YOUR THROAT!



THE RODEO HAD COME TO TOWN AND THE WHOLE COMMUNITY INCLUDING RED FIRE—HAD TURNED OUT TO SEE IT!

NOW JANE JOHNSON, WITH-
OUT HOLDIN' ON WILL PICK
UP A NECKERCHIEF WITH
HER TEETH! NOTE THE
SPEED AT WHICH HER
HORSE IS
RACIN'!!

THAT GIRL
SURE CAN RIDE,
EH, WOLF?

WOOOOF

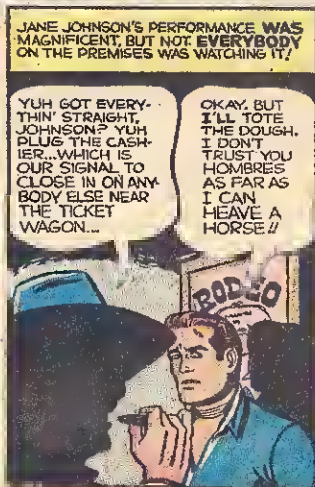
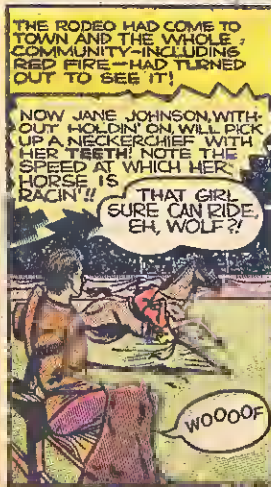
JANE JOHNSON'S PERFORMANCE WAS
MAGNIFICENT, BUT NOT EVERYBODY
ON THE PREMISES WAS WATCHING IT!

YUH GOT EVERY-
THIN' STRAIGHT,
JOHNSON? YUH
PLUS THE CASH-
IER...WHICH IS
OUR SIGNAL TO
CLOSE IN ON ANY-
BODY ELSE NEAR
THE TICKET
WAGON...

OKAY, BUT
I'LL TOTE
THE DOUGH.
I DON'T
TRUST YOU
HOMBRES
AS FAR AS
I CAN
HEAVE A
HORSE!!

WE DON'T TRUST YOU,
NEITHER, JOHNSON, SO
WE'RE EVEN! JUST
SHOOT STRAIGHT...AN'
RUN FAST—YUH'LL
HAVE NOTHIN' TO
WORRY ABOUT!

I BETTER NOT! YOU
DON'T KNOW ME
WELL OR LONG...
BUT I'M NOBODY
TO DOUBLCROSS!!



SHORTLY AFTER, IN THE TICKET-WAGON...

OH! IT'S YOU, ED! WE GOT A LOTTA CASH HERE! CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL...

THAT'S RIGHT, BILL. I RECKON WE TOOK IN MORE TODAY THAN WE DID ALL WEEK. THOUGHT I'D DROP IN AN' SEE IF EVERYTHIN' WAS ALL RIGHT...



THAT'S MIGHTY THOUGHTFUL OF YOU, ED... BUT EVERYTHIN'S FINE! JUST FI-EEEEEE

SORRY, BILL! IT WAS YOU OR THE MONEY... AN' I LIKE MONEY MORE!



8-BOSS! I HEARD SHOTS! ...FROM THE TICKET-WAGON!!

S-SO DID I! SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG! BILL IS IN THERE ALONE!



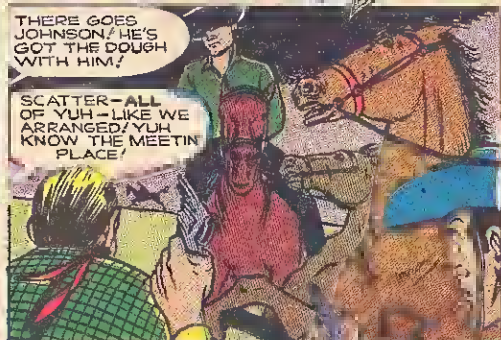
QUICK! LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPED-EEEEAA

THE BOYS'RE ON THE JOB! THIS GIVES ME A PERFECT GET-AWAY!



THERE GOES JOHNSON! HE'S GOT THE DOUGH WITH HIM!

SCATTER-ALL OF YUH-LIKE WE ARRANGED-YUH KNOW THE MEETIN' PLACE!

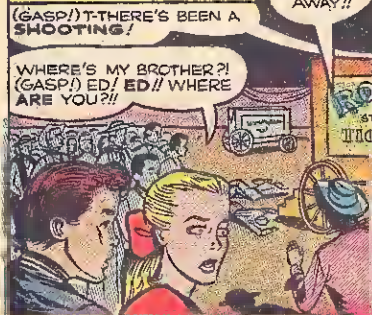


MOMENTS LATER, AS THE STARTLED CROWD RUSHES TOWARD THE TICKET-WAGON—

(GASP!) T-THERE'S BEEN A SHOOTING!

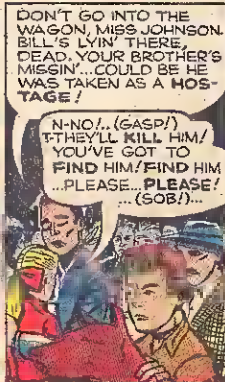
WHERE'S MY BROTHER? (GASP!) ED! ED! WHERE ARE YOU?!

NO-A HOLDUP!! ...THEY JUST GOT AWAY!!



DON'T GO INTO THE WAGON, MISS JOHNSON. BILL'S LYIN' THERE DEAD. YOUR BROTHER'S MISSIN'... COULD BE HE WAS TAKEN AS A HOSTAGE!

N-NO!... (GASP!) THEY'LL KILL HIM! YOU'VE GOT TO FIND HIM! FIND HIM! ...PLEASE... PLEASE! ... (SOB!)...



THAT NIGHT, AS RED FIRE ACROSS HEADS FOR HOME ACROSS 'GERMAN'S CREEK...

HI, GRAMPS! HEAR ANY-THING NEW ABOUT THE RODEO STICKUP?

JEST THAT THE SHERIFF THINKS ED JOHNSON WASN'T CAPTURED. THE SHERIFF THINKS JOHNSON WAS

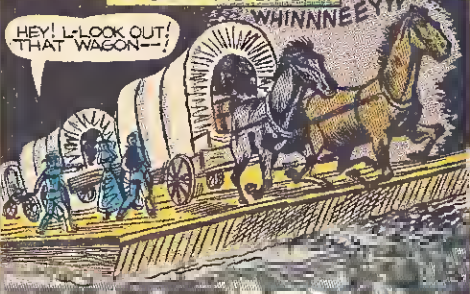
MIXED UP IN THE HOLDUP! HE SAYS NOBODY ELSE COULD GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO BILL! LESS IT WAS A FRIEND!



ANYWAYS, IT'S A TERRIBLE THING!
THREE MEN DEAD, ONE MISSIN'
THE KILLERS SKEDADDLED WITHOUT
A TRACE...THE ROPEO OUT A FAT
HUNK OF RECEIPTS...TODAY SHORE
WAS A BLACK DAY FOR THIS TOWN!



SUDDENLY, AS THE FERRY REACHES THE MIDDLE
OF GERMAN'S CREEK...



HEY! L-LOOK OUT!
THAT WAGON--!

(GASP!)...THERE'S
NOBODY ON IT!
N-NO DRIVER!!

THOSE HORSES -
(GASP!) T-THEY'LL
BE DRAGGED DOWN
WITH THE WAGON!
THEY'LL DROWN!!



I-I'VE GOT TO FREE THEM!!!



WHINNNEEEYYY

T-TAKE IT EASY, FELLER!... (GASP!)
ONE MORE STRAP!



G-GRAMPS!... (GASP!)...
I'M TAKING THEM A-
SHORE!! I'LL MEET YOU
ON THE OTHER SIDE!!

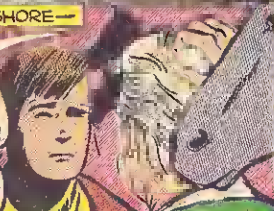
OKAY, RED FIRE!!
...JEST, KEEP
OUTA THE FER-
RY LANE!!



SHORTLY AFTER, ASHORE--

WHAT I DON'T GIT
RED FIRE IS WHAT
HAPPENED TO THE
DRIVER! WHERE'D
HE DISAPPEAR TO?
HOW COME HE AIN'T
TURNED UP TO
CLAIM HIS HOSSES?!

MAYBE HE DOESN'T
WANT TO CLAIM 'EM!
MAYBE HE WANTED
THE WAGON TO SINK!



BUT THET DON'T
MAKE SENSE!
WHAT HAS ANY
HOMRE TO
GAIN BY LOSIN'
HIS WAGON?!

THAT'S THE MYSTERY,
GRAMPS! THAT WAGON
COULDN'T HAVE GONE
OVER BY ACCIDENT!--
IF THE OWNER TURNS
UP LET ME KNOW,
GRAMPS, IN THE MEAN-
TIME, I'LL STABLE
HIS HORSES!

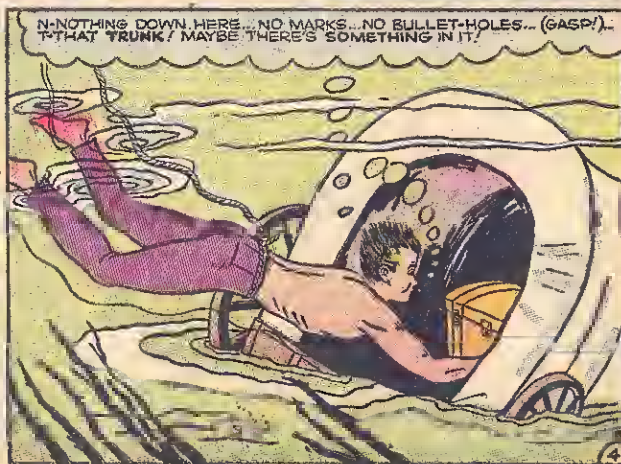
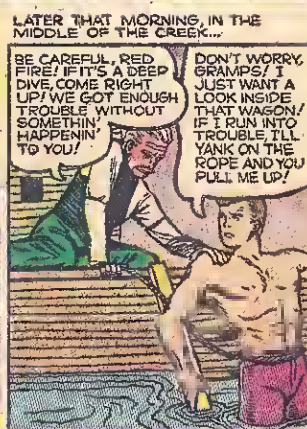
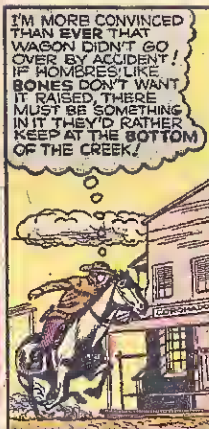
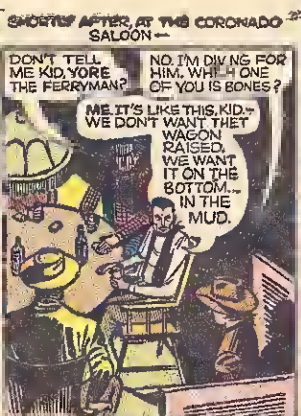
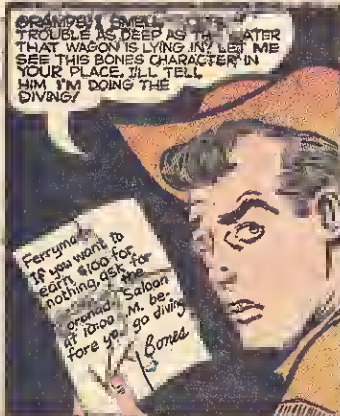


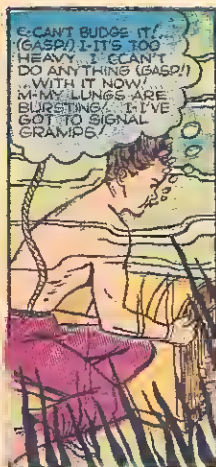
THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

I HEAR THE TOWN
WANTS YOU TO FIND
OUT IF THE SUNKEN
WAGON IS A DERELICT--
HOW'RE YOU GOING TO
DO THAT, GRAMPS?

I GOTTA GIT SOME-
ONE TO DIVE DOWN
AN' SEE, BUT THET AIN'T
WHAT'S BOTHERIN' ME.
RED FIRE, TAKE A LOOK
AT THIS MESSAGE I JUST GOT!







E-CAN'T BUDGE IT!
(GASP!) IT'S TOO
HEAVY. I CAN'T
DO ANYTHING (GASP!)
WITH IT NOW!
MY LUNGS ARE
BURSTING... I'VE
GOT TO SIGNAL
GRAMPS.

SHORTLY AFTER, AT THE DOCK...

HEY YOU! I TOLD
YUH NOT TO DIVE!
I GAVE YOU A HUND-
RED BUCKS YOU
SHOULDN'T DIVE!
BUT I WATCHED
YUH, YUH DOVE!!

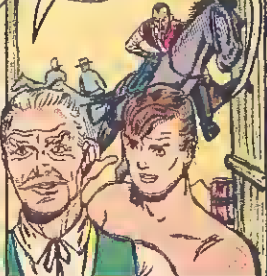
YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY
ABOUT. WE'RE RECOMMENDING THAT
THE WAGON BE LEFT THERE.

WE HAD TO GRAMPS
COULDN'T LOSE HIS
JOB FOR A MEASLY
\$100. THE TOWN
WOULD BE ON HIS
NECK IF THE WAGON
TURNED OUT TO BE
A DERELICT! BUT
YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY
ABOUT. WE'RE RECOMMENDING THAT
THE WAGON BE LEFT THERE.

WHY DIDN'T YUH SAY SO? I HAD
YUH GUYS WRONG. I THOUGHT
YUH WERE DOUBLE-CROSSIN' ME!

NOW DO YOU SMELL A
RAT ABOUT THAT WAGON,
GRAMPS?

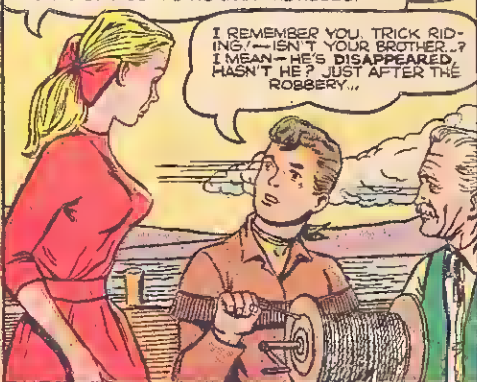
AN' NOW! WE'LL RAISE
THAT TRUNK TONIGHT,
WHEN THEY CAN'T
SEE US!



THAT AFTERNOON, AS RED FIRE AND GRAMPS CONSTRUCT
A CRUDE WINCH...

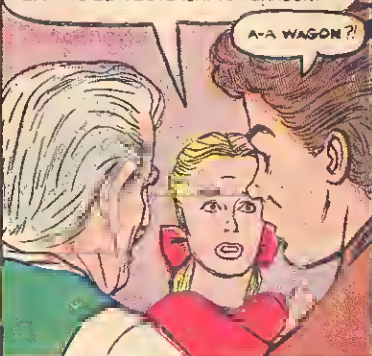
I-I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU... BUT I MUST! MY NAME
IS JANE JOHNSON. I WORK IN THE RODEO.

I REMEMBER YOUR TRICK RID-
ING!—ISN'T YOUR BROTHER? I
MEAN—HE'S DISAPPEARED.
HASN'T HE? JUST AFTER THE
ROBBERY...



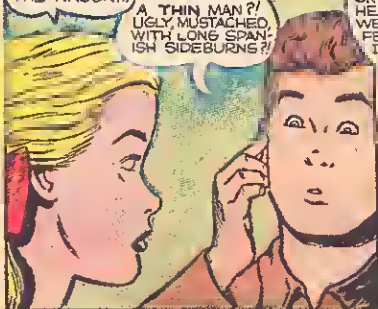
YES, BUT YOU MUSTN'T THINK AS THE
SHERIFF DOES... THAT ED IS MIXED UP
IN THE HOLDUP? HE COULDN'T BE! NOT
ED! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR HIM EVERY-
WHERE! ONLY ONE PERSON SAW HIM! A
STABLE-OWNER! HE SOLD A WAGON AND
TEAM TO ED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON!

A-A WAGON?



YES. THERE WAS A THIN MAN
WITH HIM WHEN ED BOUGHT
THE WAGON...

A THIN MAN?
UGLY, MUSTACHED,
WITH LONG SPAN-
ISH SIDEBURNS!



YES, THAT'S HIM!
HAVE YOU SEEN HIM
OR MY BROTHER? I
HEARD A WAGON
WENT OFF THE
FERRY LAST NIGHT!
I THOUGHT POSSIBLY
—MAYBE—DON'T
YOU UNDER-
STAND? I'VE
GOT TO TRACK
DOWN EVERY
CLUE!

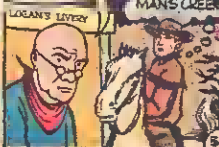
I UNDER-
STAND MISS
JOHNSON.
GIVE ME THE NAME
OF THAT
STABLE-
OWNER. I
WANT TO
FIND OUT
EXACTLY
WHAT THAT
WAGON LOOKED
LIKE AND WHAT WAS
INSIDE IT!



LATER, AT LOGAN'S LIVERY...

IF THE SKINNY
ONE IS REALLY
BONES TAGGERT,
HE'S ONE OF THE
STONEFACE SAM
ELTON GANG.
STONEFACE SAM
HAS A BLOODY
FINGER DIPPED
IN ANY CRIME
YOU CAN NAME
AN' YOU
CAN'T!

HMM...
THIS
GETTING
DEEPER
EVERY
MINUTE...
AS DEEP
AS THAT
WAGON
AT THE
BOTTOM
OF GER-
MAN'S CREEK



BUT AS RED FIRE RETURNS TO GRAMPS' SHACK NEAR THE DOCK...

SURPRISED TO SEE ME KID? DON'T BE, I GOT ANOTHER DEAL COOKIN'. I'LL GIVE YUH ANOTHER \$100 TO RAISE SOMETHIN' INSIDE THE WAGON / A TRUNK!

A TRUNK, EH?
AND WHAT IF I
REFUSE?



YUH WON'T KID!
LUKE! BRING OUR
PRISONERS IN!

I TOLD 'EM WE COULDN'T
RAISE THE TRUNK, RED
FIRE / THAT IT WAS THE
SHERIFF'S JOB TO DO
THAT!

HANG THE
SHERIFF!
WE'LL
WORRY
ABOUT
THE LAW!



FIRST WORRY ABOUT
US! GET 'EM, WOLF!

H-HEY!!



(GASP!) G-GIT HIM AWAY FROM
ME!... H-HE'S CHAWIN' ME U...
YEEOWWWW

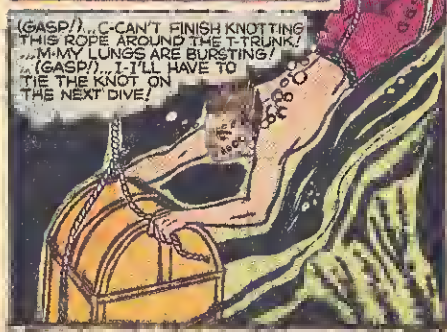


ALL RIGHT, BONES!...
NOW YOU RAISE 'EM!
GO BACK AND TELL
STONEFACE SAM HE
CAN GO STRAIGHT TO
BLAZES / IF HE WANTS
THAT TRUNK, HE'LL
HAVE TO DIVE FOR IT
HIMSELF!

OKAY, RED FIRE / Y-YUH
JEST TOOK YORE FUST
STEP TOWARD
DYIN' YOUNG!



THAT
NIGHT
NEAR
THE
BOTTOM
OF
GERMAN'S
CREEK...

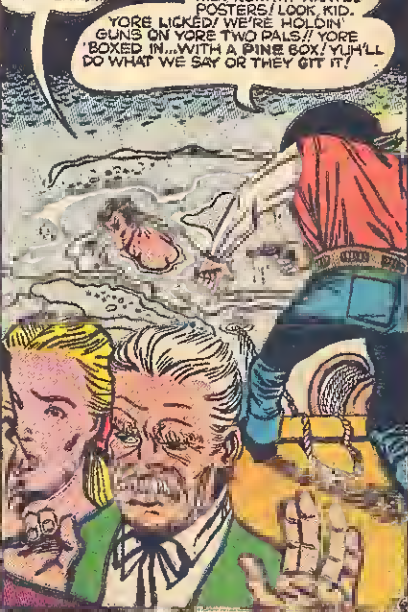


(GASP!)... C-CAN'T FINISH KNOTTING
THIS ROPE AROUND THE T-TRUNK!
...M-MY LUNGS ARE BURSTING!
(GASP!)... I-I'LL HAVE TO
TIE THE KNOT ON
THE NEXT DIVE!

BUT AS RED FIRE EMERGES FROM THE WATER...

(GASP!)... S-STONE-
FACE SAM!...

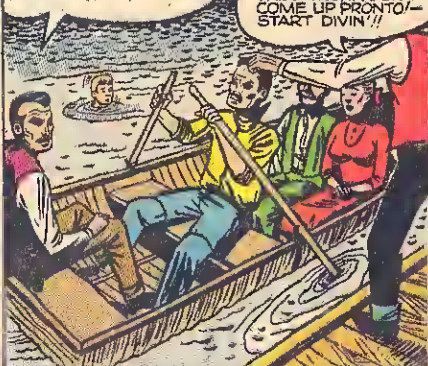
I SEE YUH RECOGNIZE
ME FROM MY WANTED
POSTERS / LOOK, KID.
YORE LICKED! WE'RE HOLDIN'
GUNS ON YORE TWO PALS / YORE
'BOXED IN... WITH A PINE BOX / YUH'LL
DO WHAT WE SAY OR THEY GIT IT!



MOMENTS LATER, AS BONES ROWS OFF WITH HIS TWO CAPTIVES...

WE'LL BE WAITIN' AT BIG ROCK! IF YUH DON'T SHOW UP IN A HALF HOUR, SAM, NOBODY'LL EVER SEE THESE TWO ALIVE AGAIN!

HEAR THAT, KID? THIS TOWNS GONNA SUDDENLY LOSE THREE CITIZENS, INCLUDIN' YOU, IF THAT TRUNK DON'T COME UP PRONTO!— START DIVIN'!!

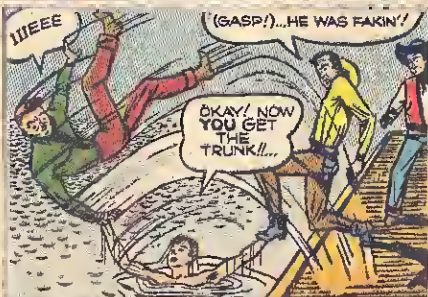


IF I COME UP WITH THAT TRUNK, I'M A DEAD DUCK! I'VE GOT TO FIGHT MY WAY OUT OF THIS TRAP! I'LL PRETEND I'VE GOT A CRAMP.

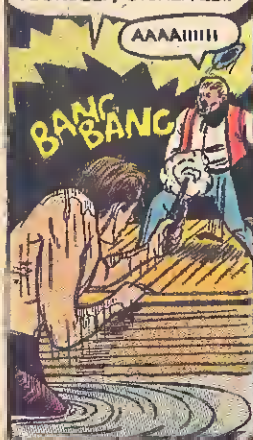


HEY! WHAT'S THE MATTER?!... WHAT'RE YOU COMIN' UP NOW FOR?

I-I GOT A CRAMP, STONE-FACE!... (GASP!)... I-IT'S DOUBLING ME UP... (GASP!)... G-GIVE ME A HAND...



YOU BROUGHT THIS ON YOURSELF, STONEFACE!!



MINUTES LATER, AS THE FERRY NEARS LAND—

WHEN WE REACH THE DOCK, YOU'LL TURN YOUR BACKS TO ME! THEN WITH YOU SAFELY TIED UP, I'LL KEEP STONEFACE'S APPOINTMENT WITH BONES... MINUS THE TRUNK!!

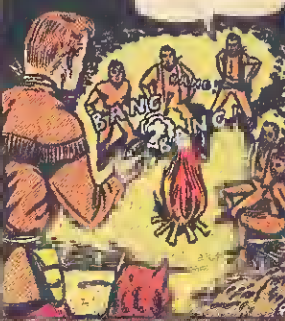
STONEFACE WAS A FOOL! HE SHOULD'VE PLUGGED YUH WHEN HE HAD THE CHANCE!!

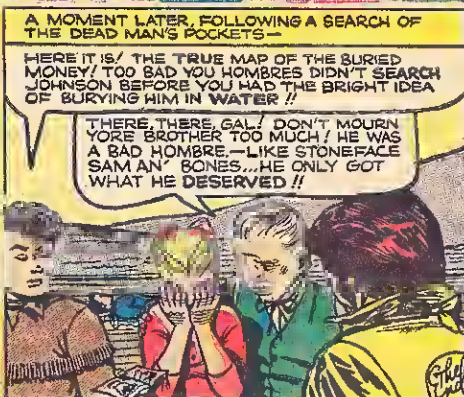
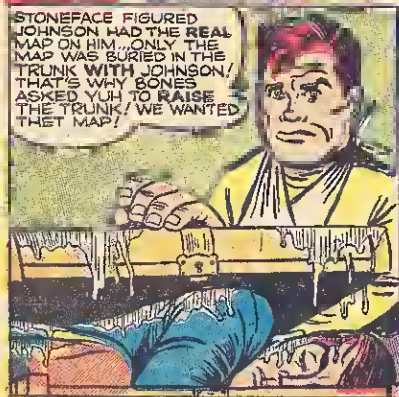
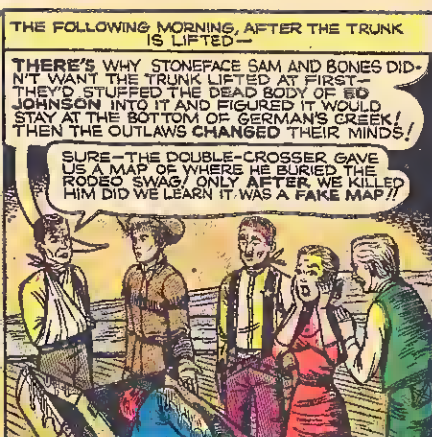


TEN MINUTES LATER... AT BIG ROCK...

ALL RIGHT, BONES, THROW 'EM UP!...

(GASP!)... I-IT'S THE KID... HE GOT AWAY FROM STONEFACE!!... FOR GOSH SAKES, PLUG HIM!!...





STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 8, 1938, AND JULY 2, 1946 OF BLACK DIAMOND WESTERN, published bi-monthly at New York, N. Y. for October 1, 1954.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business manager are:
 Publisher: Lev Gleason Publications, Inc., 114 E. 32nd Street, New York 16, N. Y. Editor: Leverett S. Gleason, 73 Park Drive, Chappaqua, N. Y. Managing Editor: None. Business Manager: Thomas F. O'Brien, 109-08 211th Street, Bellerose 9, L. I.

2. The owner is: (if owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.) Lev Gleason Publications, Inc., 114 E. 32nd Street, New York 16, N. Y. Leverett S. Gleason, 73 Park Drive, Chappaqua, N. Y. Morton Rosenthal, Riverside Memorial Chapel, 76th St. & Amsterdam Avenue, New York 23, N. Y. Rosalind Rosenthal, King Street, Chappaqua, N. Y. Judy Rosenthal, King Street, Chappaqua, N. Y. Jane Rosenthal, King Street, Chappaqua, N. Y. Pat Rosenthal, 101 Central Park West, New York 23, N. Y. Carol L. Rosenthal, 101 Central Park West, New York 23, N. Y. Ellen J. Rosenthal, 101 Central Park West, New York 23, N. Y. Peter Rosenthal, 101 Central Park West, New York 23, N. Y.

3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.

5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was:

(This information is required from daily, weekly, semiweekly and triweekly newspapers only.)

THOMAS F. O'BRIEN, Business Mgr.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 36th day of August, 1954,

(Seal)

(My commission expires March 30, 1956)

MANUEL LIEBLICH



Plaited 4-Ply Genuine Leather **Big Bull Whip**

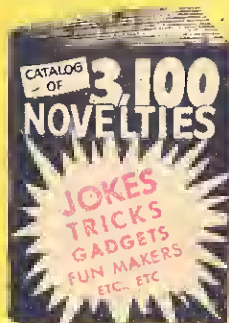
Used by Trainers & Cowboys! Packs a Terrific Wallop! Slip your hand through the loop, let the whip flit naturally between your thumb and fingers, draw it back and LET IT LOOSE! This **BIG, HEAVY, RAWHIDE LEATHER WHIP** snakes forward hard and fast until the tongue on the end cracks out with a loud snap. You hold it loosely, letting the thumb and fingers control it. The loop on handle keeps it securely to your hand. You'll be amazed how easily you can make it snap where and when you want with just a little practice. Like handling a casting rod. Excellent for training animals or pets.

Experts knock ashes off cigaret, gun out of hand, yank people off their feet, etc. Used by trainers, ranchmen, cowboys, etc. Can be thrown overhand, underhand or sidemarm. Packs a terrific wallop as it uncoils and cracks. Tapering 4-ply plaited leather that tapers down to a tongue on end which serves as the "cracker". Leather loop handle. Specially treated for pliability and long life. Same as those used on the Western ranches. A dandy weapon. Pick out the whip you want and send for it today. Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back. Immediate delivery. Sorry, No C.O.D. at These Low Cash Prices.

6 Foot Whip, Each Postpaid Only... \$1.98-2 for \$3.75 **10 Foot Whip, Each Postpaid Only... \$3.29**

Use Coupon Below or Mail Letter To: **JOHNSON SMITH & COMPANY** Dept. 950, Detroit 7, Michigan

Catalog of 3,200 Novelties, Jokes, Gadgets, Tricks, Funmakers 10c



Send 10c for amazing NEW CATALOG of novelties, jokes, tricks, gadgets, funmakers, live animals, scientific supplies, hobbies, games & toys, time-savers, unusual seeds, cameras, optical goods, projectors, movies, lucky jerky, religious goods, masks, disguises, musical instruments, stamps, coins, puzzles, radios, fortune tellers, auto and bike accessories, telescopes, magnifiers, compasses, banks, smokers, items, artist supplies, printing sets, engines, motors, shoekeys, knives, billfolds, guns, rifles, sports, books, games, plants, pennants,

emblems, name-to-order novelties, awards, etc. Things you never knew where to get. Things you never knew existed. More interesting than carnival, circus, world's fair & science exhibit all in one. Called by many the "Most Unusual Catalog in the World". Send name, address and 10c to:

JOHNSON SMITH & COMPANY, Dept. 950, Detroit 7, Michigan

— Order Blank for Whips or Catalog —

JOHNSON SMITH & COMPANY
Dept. 950, Detroit 7, Michigan

Please Send Me:

Catalogs—10c Each

6-Ft. Whip—\$1.98 Each

10-Ft. Whip—\$3.29 Each

Total \$

Send To

MEDICAL TABLET DISCOVERY!

SAFE, NEW,
EASY WAY!

"BED WETTING"



Without Electrical Devices...
Rubber Sheets... Alarms...

Ends Shame, Discomfort, Inconvenience
Almost Miraculously!

SIMPLE SAFE TABLET DOES IT

DRY-TABS is the same safe medical discovery that is prescribed by many doctors. Now, it is available for the first time without prescription to all the victims of BED-WETTING who long to rid themselves of this distressing habit once and for all. DRY-TABS is safe, not habit forming, contains no harmful drugs—Follow simple directions.

"DRY-TAB THERAPY" Eventually Allows BED-WETTING Victims to Function Normally Without Further Medication

DRY-TABS, in most cases, does not offer merely temporary relief of BED-WETTING. In case after case, as revealed in clinical tests conducted in hospitals by medical specialists, the DRY-TABS formula proved itself to be a tablet that gives direct relief to the patient in controlling his BED-WETTING. The benefits of the DRY-TABS formula may be experienced by the patient beyond the period when it is taken regularly. It breaks the BED-WETTING victim to relieve, tends to increase strength of sphincter and restores normal functioning. Many cases have discontinued the use of DRY-TABS after a short time and found they were functioning normally. So BED-WETTING victims do not have to be slaves to any kind of medication if their case is of the type that responds to the restraining power of DRY-TABS. This is probably one of the greatest advantages ever made to BED-WETTING therapy. Yes, our DRY-TABS stops BED-WETTING, its use may no longer be required, normal functioning and control may be developed almost miraculously. So don't hesitate a minute longer. Order DRY-TABS Today!

DRY-TABS Amazing Formula Effective in 75% of Cases

CASE NO. 1. Merib, intelligent boy, 9 years old. BED-WETTING since infancy. Child could not keep his pants. All other medication failed. DRY-TABS formula taken for two three-week periods. Child has remained well for the past three years.

CASE NO. 2. Normal boy. History of BED-WETTING since infancy. Child had no organic defect. Various cases tried. But DRY-TABS formula restored. After a month, habit suddenly stopped.

CASE NO. 3. Male, aged 23 years. BED-WETTING since birth. Many forms of treatment failed. Unable to control urination to sleep out overnight. Recently married, and embarrassed by habit. After formula taken, wet bed the first two nights but never since that time.

CASE NO. 4. Girl, aged 6 years. Wet bed since infancy. Nervous, irritable. DRY-TABS formula administered for regular period. BED-WETTING stopped almost immediately. Slight relief. Formula administered again. Child responded immediately on more, and history repeats no further relapse.

CASE NO. 5. Man, 45 years old, wet "heavily." Nervous, irritable. Wet during second week and continued to wet when medication was withdrawn for following week. Resisted after rest period, and after five-day treatment seemed to retain control of bladder function.

CASE NO. 6. Woman, 75 years old. DRY-TABS formula administered for 6 days. Improvement appeared with relief of medication, improvement continued. Continued gradual return of control. One year without formula and control is adequate.

WHY endure the needless shame, embarrassment, humiliation... the discomfort and distress of this unfortunate habit? Why put up with the daily nuisance of changing and washing bed linen and clothes? Why suffer the mortification of foul smelling bedrooms... the expense of ruined furniture... the danger of catching cold and infectious rashes?

Doctors agree that BED-WETTING can cause nervousness, stuttering and emotional disturbances in children, very often seriously affecting their future and character, making them "psychological cripples."

But now the disgrace and danger of BED-WETTING run very easily by a thing of the past with amazing new DRY-TABS. At last, medical science has discovered a safe, new, easy way to stop BED-WETTING without electrical devices... without rubber sheets, alarms or special diets and without interrupting needed sleep. DRY-TABS, in easy-to-take tablet form, does away with BED-WETTING as painlessly, easily and simply as swallowing an aspirin. Yes, almost miraculously, amazing, safe DRY-TABS, used as directed, help stop functional BED-WETTING... relieve tension and strain, often the underlying cause in most cases of this unfortunate habit. Now, for the first time, safe DRY-TABS can be obtained without prescription.

DEVELOPED AFTER YEARS OF EXTENSIVE HOSPITAL AND CLINICAL RESEARCH AS REVEALED IN MEDICAL LITERATURE

The discovery of relief, many times, are brought about by indirect means. Take the case of the excellent DRY-TABS formula. Medical practitioners shared upon this formula while they were searching for a remedy for another illness. Notice the remarkable effort that this formula had upon BED-WETTING they recognized their efforts on this new data and developed the formula to its present state of perfection. The result is the new DRY-TABS, a remarkable tablet that has brought new hope to thousands of tormented victims of BED-WETTING. Before this formula was released to the public, it was tested in clinics and hospitals by medical specialists on controlled groups of patients. The DRY-TABS formula is the result of thorough medical research, the result of research and effort that is given to any product that is to be placed in the hands of the public. Check up BED-WETTING as one more ailment that has been conquered by the mind of research. Think of it, no expensive electrical devices, embarrassing rubber sheets, special diets or mechanical alarms. Just a wonderful new tablet... DRY-TABS... product of medical research... offering the hope of a new future for all their sufferers of BED-WETTING. Be sure to order DRY-TABS today!

ADULTS: START LIVING A NORMAL LIFE TONIGHT!

Sleeping rest actually prove DRY-TABS to be 75% effective in stopping this unfortunate habit—very often years of torment! End the constant worry of overnight hotel stays and fear of public embarrassment while reading on trials and waves. Don't wait another day. If your loved one suffers the humiliation, the disgrace, insecurity and embarrassment only BED-WETTING can cause, order DRY-TABS NOW! Every to take, rest be dissolved in water if necessary. Just follow simple directions.

MAKE THIS HOME TEST: Here is your guarantee of satisfaction. Try not completely overjoyed with DRY-TABS for the prescribed period. If you are not completely overjoyed with DRY-TABS' remarkable ability to help stop BED-WETTING, your purchase price will be refunded. Accept this no-risk offer. Order DRY-TABS now!

SEND NO MONEY: Just write and address for generous 3-week supply. Our return price system only \$5.00 per package plus C.O.D. charges on guarantee of complete satisfaction, or money back.

MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY

GARY PHARMACEUTICAL CO., Dept. M-2
7501 Seginway Avenue, Chicago 47, Illinois
Please send me 3-week supply of DRY-TABS on guarantee BED-WETTING must be stopped or money back.

- ☐ Send C.O.D., I will pay postman \$5.00 per package plus postage.
☐ Cash enclosed, we pay full postage.
☐ Send 2 packages (4-week supply) for \$5.50.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____

DRAW ME!

Try for a Free 2-Year Art Scholarship worth \$295⁰⁰

Imagine how you'll feel, one day soon, if you get a telegram reading "Congratulations. Your drawing wins you complete 2-year home study art course!"

It could happen! You've a chance to win free art training from Art Instruction, Inc., world's greatest home study art school, in this contest. All you have to do is draw the girl's head, five inches high. It's an easy way to find out if you've money-making art talent, and it may start you on an exciting career! You've nothing to lose—everything to gain. Mail your drawing today!

Amateurs only! Our students not eligible. Make copy of girl 5 ins. high. Pencil or pen only. Omit lettering. All drawings must be received by December 31, 1954. None returned. Winners notified.

USE ONLY ONE COUPON

Leave the other coupons so your friends can also enter drawings. Pass this ad on to your friends. See who can win the prize!



ART INSTRUCTION, INC., STUDIO 11734
500 South 4th Street • Minneapolis 15, Minn.

Please enter my attached drawing in your contest.
(Please Print) 1

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ APT. _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____

COUNTY _____ STATE _____

OCCUPATION _____

AGE _____ PHONE _____

ART INSTRUCTION, INC., STUDIO 11734
500 South 4th Street • Minneapolis 15, Minn.

Please enter my attached drawing in your contest.
(Please Print) 3

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ APT. _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____

COUNTY _____ STATE _____

OCCUPATION _____

AGE _____ PHONE _____

ART INSTRUCTION, INC., STUDIO 11734
500 South 4th Street • Minneapolis 15, Minn.

Please enter my attached drawing in your contest.
(Please Print) 2

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ APT. _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____

COUNTY _____ STATE _____

OCCUPATION _____

AGE _____ PHONE _____



RADIO



ROY ROGERS
FLASH CAMERA



ROY ROGERS
BINOCULARS



GABBY HATES
FISHING KIT



RADIO DIAL
POCKET WATCH



GRIS' SHOULDER
STRAP BAG



SPORTS
EQUIPMENT



ROLLER
SKATES



JET ENGINE
PLANE EYES
500 FEET!



WALKING
DOLL



TWO-GUN
HOLSTER SET



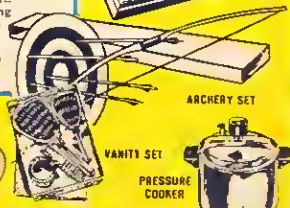
HUNTING
KNIFE
AND AX



TABLE TENNIS SET



CHEMISTRY SET



ARCHERY SET



PRESSURE
COOKER



WOODBURNING
SET



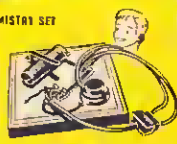
TYPEWRITER



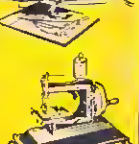
WHITE ZIPPER
BIBLE



UKULELE
WITH ARTHUR
GOODLEY PLAYER



RADIO RECEIVING
SET FOR SCOUTS



SEWING MACHINE

MEN-WOMEN-BOYS-GIRLS

PRIZES GIVEN

MAKE MONEY TOO!

We will send you the wonderful prizes pictured on this page or dozens of others, such as jewelry, radio dial wrist watches, tableware, tools, U-Make-It kits, leather kits, sewing kits, electric clocks, pressure cookers, scout equipment, model airplanes, movie machines, record players, and many others... all WITHOUT ONE PENNY OF COST. You don't risk or invest a cent—we send you everything you need ON TRUST. Here's how easy it is: Merely show your friends and neighbors inspiring, beautiful Religious Wall Motto plaques. Many buy six or even more to hang in every room. An amazing value, only 35c... self tonight. You can secure big, cash commissions or many exciting prizes for selling just one set of 24 Mottos. Write today for Big Prize catalog sent to you FREE!

SEND NO MONEY—We Trust You!

HERE'S HOW YOU GET YOUR PRIZES

Rush your name and address on coupon and we will ship AT ONCE PREPAID your first set of 24 richly decorated Mottos ON TRUST. When you have sold the 24 Mottos, send the \$8.40 you have collected and you can secure your choice of many wonderful prizes. If you prefer to EARN MONEY, send \$6.00 and keep \$2.40. Hurry, send TODAY for 24 Mottos ON TRUST and big PRIZE CATALOG FREE!

FREE! MEMBERSHIP in the FUNman's Fun Club

EXTRA! Sell mottos and send payment within 15 days, and we'll give you FREE a year's Membership in the FUNman's Fun Club. Membership card, certificate, secret code, giant packet of fun materials all yours—PLUS many extra surprises!

The FUNman, Dept. M-137, FREE BIG PRIZE CATALOG 4545 N. Clark St., Chicago 40, Ill.

Please rush to me a credit 24 Religious Wall Mottos, to sell at 35c each. Also include big Prize Catalog FREE. I will remit amount required as explained under description of prize in BIG PRIZE CATALOG within 30 days and select the prize I want or keep a cash commission as explained.

NAME..... AGE.....
STREET or RFD.....
TOWN..... Zone..... STATE.....

SEND NO MONEY... We Trust You!